



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

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Activity report of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Committees 2025

This yearly Activity Report was prepared by the Technical Committees (TCOMs), the Executive Committee (ECOM) and the Secretariat of the Association.

The document contains the reports of the Executive Committee, the Technical Committees and of the Secretary General and includes the financial statements of the International Seed Testing Association for 2025, the budget for 2026 and preliminary budget for 2027.

This document is submitted to all ISTA Designated Authorities, ISTA Members and ISTA Observer Organisations for information two months prior to the ISTA Ordinary General Meeting 2026.

The Activity Report was endorsed by the Executive Committee for submission to the ISTA Ordinary General Meeting 2026, to be held on June 25, 2026, for acceptance by the nominated ISTA Designated Members voting on behalf of their respective Governments/Distinct Economies.

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A. Report of the Executive Committee (ECOM) 2025

1. Composition of the Executive Committee

This report has been prepared by members of the Executive Committee (ECOM), with specific input from Chairs of the ECOM Working Groups (WGs) for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

The Executive Committee 2025 was composed of:

Officers:

Ernest Allen (President) USA

Sergio Pasquini (Vice-President) Italy

Members-at-large:

Keshavulu Kunusoth (Immediate Past President) India

Ignacio Aranciaga Argentina

Ruojing Wang Canada

Didier Demilly France

Craig McGill New Zealand

Ruel Gesmundo The Philippines

Irena Gera Poland

Vanessa Sosa Uruguay

Claid Mujaju Zimbabwe

This is the first report of the 2025–2028 Executive Committee (ECOM), covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025. The Committee was elected at the Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) held in May 2025 in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Sincere thanks are extended to Steve Jones and Berta Killermann, who stepped down from the ECOM in July 2025 at the end of their respective terms as ISTA Immediate Past President and Executive Committee Member. During the Christchurch meeting, both Steve and Berta were awarded ISTA Honorary Life Membership in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Association over many years. ISTA welcomes Ruojing Wang (Canada), Didier Demilly (France), and Irena Gera (Poland), who were elected to the ECOM during the 2025 OGM.

The first meeting of the new ECOM was held shortly after the OGM on 13 May 2025. Since then, the ECOM has communicated primarily by email and conference calls to manage ISTA affairs. A second in-person business meeting took place in Hyderabad, India, from 15 to 21 February 2025.

Strategic Oversight and Working Group Structure

The Executive Committee holds primary responsibility for implementing the Association’s strategy. For the period up to the Christchurch Congress, the ECOM was guided by the 2022–2025 ISTA Strategy, as approved by the membership at the 33rd ISTA Congress in Cairo, Egypt. From May 2025 onwards, the Committee’s work is guided by the 2025–2028 Strategy, approved by a membership vote at the 34th ISTA Congress in Christchurch.

The ECOM delivers on this responsibility through a structured system of ECOM Working Groups (WGs), each mandated to advance specific strategic priorities and thematic areas. The role of the working groups is to propose solutions on specific topics and, where appropriate, develop policy for discussion and decision by the Executive Committee – and, for certain topics, by the ISTA membership through its Designated Voting Members.

The working groups for the 2025–2028 triennium are (Chair in brackets):

- Accreditation— (Vanessa Sosa)
- Articles of the Association— (Sergio Pasquini)
- Finance— (Sergio Pasquini)
- International Relations and Designated Authorities— (Keshavulu Kunusoth)
- Events— (Sergio Pasquini)
- Marketing and Publications— (Ignacio Aranciaga)
- Seed Health— (Craig McGill)
- Technical Committees— (Craig McGill)
- Vegetable Seeds Industry— (Craig McGill)
- Young@ISTA – (Keshavulu Kunusoth)
- Tropical and sub tropical species – (Vanessa Sosa)
- AOSA/SCST collaboration – (Ruoqing Wang)
- Expansion of Seed Testing worldwide – (Ignacio Aranciaga)

All ECOM working groups have regular online meetings as required, including during the ECOM meetings in February and May–June 2025.

2. Meetings of the Executive Committee

Christchurch, New Zealand (11 May 2025)

This introductory one day meeting marked the first formal session of the new Executive Committee for the 2025–2028 term. The new ISTA President, Ernest Allen and Immediate Past President, Keshavulu Kunusoth, together with returning ECOM members, introduced new members to the ECOM’s structure, working methods, and communication processes.

During the meeting, membership of ECOM Working Groups and TCOM liaison officers was reviewed and assigned. Preparations for the annual meeting in Canada were discussed, alongside other operational decisions. The date and location of the next February ECOM meeting were also discussed.

Hyderabad, India (15–21 February 2026)

Topics Discussed:

- The February ECOM meeting was facilitated by Keshavulu Kunusoth (Immediate Past President and host country representative), Ernest Allen (President), and Sergio Pasquini (Vice President). A joint session was held with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Technical Committees (TCOMs). The meeting addressed long-range planning and the needs of the technical committees, including the ideal structure and operational model for the TCOMs.
- The ECOM reviewed efforts to strengthen underrepresented regions, with the aim of growing membership and enhancing global seed testing capacity. This includes developing collaborations to increase seed sampling and testing capabilities worldwide, with a particular focus on Latin America, Africa, and Asia.
- The ECOM is engaging with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and relevant National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to streamline emergency seed health method approval processes and improve ISTA rule validation procedures. The objective is to reduce current bottlenecks in seed health testing that can slow global seed movement, while maintaining the highest standards of scientific accuracy and integrity. These twin principles – speed and reliability – will guide efforts to accelerate the availability of validated seed health methods within the ISTA Rules.
- The ECOM also discussed ways to further strengthen and adapt the accreditation system to better support laboratories. Technical Committees have been tasked with continuing their essential work to strengthen science and technology, ensuring that methods remain at the forefront of seed science. The ECOM's commitment to understanding the needs of members and stakeholders remains ongoing; feedback gathered in India, alongside emerging partnerships in Latin America and Africa, forms the initial stage of this broader information-gathering process.
- ISTA is focusing on supporting the work of its Technical Committees, while also expanding its marketing efforts, international representation, and relationships with ISTA Designated Authorities and other seed sector organisations.

3. Activities of the Executive Committee Working Groups

The Executive Committee working groups have worked on the following:

3.1 Accreditation Working Group

Members: Vanessa Sosa (Chair), Irena Gera, Sergio Pasquini, Craig McGill, Keshavulu Kunusoth, Florina Palada.

As consolidated over years, the main task of the ECOM Accreditation Working Group (AWG) is to assist and support the ISTA Accreditation and Technical Department (ATD) in the accreditation related issues.

The actual AWG is acting starting with 12.05.2025.

Until this date the previous AWG was formed by Sylvie Ducournau (Chair), Berta Killermann, Vanessa Sosa, Steve Jones, Sergio Pasquini, Florina Palada.

ISTA auditors and audit administrators

At the ISTA Secretariat the Accreditation Department is composed of five staff. In 2025 the audits were performed by 30 ISTA contracted auditors and three ISTA Secretariat auditors with the support of two audits administrators, coordinated by the Head of Accreditation and Technical Department.

Two technical auditors for standard tests, one technical auditor with sampling expertise and two technical auditors, experts for SH were approved in 2025.

One technical auditor decided to discontinue performing ISTA audits.

Five more candidates to be contracted ISTA auditors are in different steps of the approval process (two technical auditors, three system auditors).

For three more candidates to be ISTA contracted auditors the training process will start in 2026.

Overview - ISTA audits

In 2025 the audits, 58 in total, were performed with on-site assessment apart from six audits performed completely remotely due to security/auditor safety reasons. For the audits performed remotely the approval of the Accreditation Working Group was required.

This year six accreditation audits were performed, bringing the total accredited laboratories to 161. Three laboratories voluntary terminated their ISTA accreditation in 2025.

Questions on ISTA accreditation status

As usual, the AWG collaborated with the Accreditation and Technical Department in the evaluation of specific cases e.g., suspension of a laboratory due to poor PT results, starting of the accreditation process, voluntary suspension approval, application for (re)accreditation of laboratories with sampling units in the scope.

Reviewing or strengthening the quality documentation

Reviewing and updating documents is a continuous ongoing process.

The audits done in 2025 were performed having as reference the revised ISTA Accreditation Standard for Seed Testing and Seed Sampling version 7 valid since 01.01.2024.

This year a new revision was approved and version 8 is valid starting with 01.01.2026.. The title is now also changed to *ISTA Accreditation Standard for Seed Sampling and Testing*. The revised version is translated in three other languages, French, Spanish and German and will be posted on the ISTA website together with the English version.

The ISTA Directive Acc-D-06B – version 2.0, *Accreditation of laboratories and sampling entities with sampling units at multiple sites* was also revised. Consequential changes were made to the ISTA Accreditation Standard.

The revision of these two documents was approved at the February 2025 ECOM Meeting at the proposal of the Accreditation Working Group.

Cooperation with the ISTA Technical Committees

The AWG and ATD often contact the ISTA Technical Committees to clarify specific issues arising during audits or for clarifications relating to the ISTA Rules.

The ADT and AWG have been as well contacted by TCOMs for matters related to the accreditation standard, or revision of some chapters of the ISTA Rules. The Head of Accreditation and Technical Department was also part of the working group preparing the Guidelines of Advanced Technology Applications for Seed Testing - *Computer vision*, which is now approved and posted on the ISTA website.

Challenges

One of the challenges of 2023 and continued in 2024 and 2025 was the change of the policy regarding the due dates to address the non-conformities identified during the ISTA audits. The ECOM decision taken in February 2023 was implemented for all laboratories audited in 2025 and the cycle of implementation is finalised.

The new revised ISTA Accreditation Standard brings clarifications in several aspects to be considered by the ISTA auditors and the audited laboratories such staff monitoring, management review, copy right policy.

Starting with 01.01. 2025, for the Audit Reports only the name and the role of the auditor but not the signature is used and to avoid any confusion the documents are suitable marked as final.

Special projects

The auditors were working to finalise a Guideline on Quality Assurance aspects for laboratory equipment (balances and thermometers). The document is now at the final check with the auditors, and the aim is to have the guideline ready in the first trimester of 2026.

First Quality Assurance Workshop and ISTA accreditation for beginners in French language for the francophone countries was successfully organised in Dakar, Senegal.

First Quality Assurance Workshop and ISTA accreditation for beginners in Spanish language is in preparation for 2026.

Four QA webinars were held: the first in March on Risk assessment and the second in October on how to perform the Management review. Two more webinars related to the changes in the ISTA Accreditation Standard and the Directive for laboratories with sampling units in the scope were also organised with the participation of the AWG members.

The ADT staff is involved and supports the implementation of the eCertificates. The support is for the laboratories in the testing phase and also for the laboratories starting to issue ISTA eCertificates to report the testing results. Two webinars were as well organised for this topic.

Accreditation of ISTA laboratories for SH tests – a new approach; with the support of the SH COM, ECOM-SH Working group, ECOM – AWG a new approach will be presented for study and approval to the full ECOM. This will consider the transition from validated methods to more method-based accreditation.

3.2 Articles of the Association Working Group

Members: Sergio Pasquini (Chair), Craig McGill, Ignacio Aranciaga, Keshavulu Kunusoth, Andreas Wais.

There were no Article change proposals to vote on at the OGM in 2026

3.3 International Relations and Designated Authorities Working Group

Members: Keshavulu Kunusoth (Chair), Craig McGill, Ruel Gesmundo, Ruoqing Wang, Sergio Pasquini, Didier Demilly, Andreas Wais, Olga Stöckli.

The focus of the **DA & IR** working group is on strengthening interaction between ISTA and its Designated Authorities (DAs) and collaboration with other international organisations. The DA & IR WG plans and holds meetings with the ISTA DAs, develops the international relations policy, coordinates the representation of ISTA in international fora and meetings during Annual Meetings and Congresses, for discussion and approval by the whole ISTA Executive Committee (ECOM). The ISTA collaborates with a range of international and regional organisations to address the evolving needs of the global seed industry and to support harmonised regulatory frameworks to ensure that seed testing standards, quality assurance systems, and certification processes align with international trade requirements and the regulatory expectations of different regions. In addition, the ISTA representatives meet with the DAs individually when visiting countries which have an ISTA DA.

Feedback from the ISTA DAs and ISTA Designated Voting Members helped formulate and modify the 2025-2028 ISTA Strategy voted on at the 2025 voting meeting in Christchurch.

During the 2025 ISTA Congress in Christchurch the ECOM members present met with the Designated Authorities, the topics on e Certificates; ISTA expansion Initiatives, ISTA Advocates and Implementing the ISTA strategy 2025 to 2028 were discussed:

The ISTA eCertificates implementation plans: The implementation plan was updated and presented, some of the laboratories are being issuing e certificates and a few of the laboratories shown considerable interest regarding the use of e-Certificates issued by different laboratories and updated the manner in which these certificates would be accessed and utilised by various agencies and organisations that require them.

ISTA Expansion Initiatives: ISTA continues to undertake its expansion initiatives aimed at expanding its global reach and strengthening engagement with seed testing laboratories, regulatory authorities, and the seed industry especially in countries/regions, where ISTA is not or under-represented.

ISTA Advocate initiatives: An update was provided on the ISTA Advocacy Initiative, which aims to promote greater awareness and wider adoption of ISTA seed testing standards, accreditation systems, and ISTA Rules among governments, regulatory authorities, and the global seed industry.

Implementing ISTA Strategy for 2025-28: The ISTA's strategy for the upcoming triennium was presented as well. Once again feedback from the Designated Authorities (DAs) and designated members was sought.

The ISTA Strategic Advisory Panel: The Strategic Advisory Panel was presented, highlighting that its scope within ISTA may not be limited solely to seed science and technology, but should also extend to broader advisory functions.

International Relations

The international organisations ISTA's interactions fall into seven groups:

1. Regulatory organisations: including at the national level, the DA of member countries and international organisations such as OECD, FAO, UPOV, IPPC, ITPGR. ISTA has regular contact with ISF, FAO and OECD. ISTA participates at OECD and IPPC Meetings as observer organisation on a regular basis. ISTA is working with FAO to for joint workshop activities”.

2. Organisations related to ISTA accreditation:

Such as the Global Accreditation Collaboration former (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation - ILAC). As an GAC stakeholder ISTA is active involved in communication with this organisation.

ISTA was invited by the Maize Research Institute Zemun Polje at the Conference they organised to marked the 80th anniversary of its establishment. ISTA was represented by Florina Palada the Head of Accreditation and Technical Department.

3. Scientific fora and collaboration with other associations: such as the International Seed Science Society (ISSS). A joint ISSS/ISTA webinar series was started in 2025. Two joint webinars took place in 2025. These were well attended and the feedback was positive. It is planned to continue the series in 2026.

4. Technical collaboration with other organisations to harmonise seed testing methods worldwide: such as with AOSA/SCST in the United States. ISTA usually attends the AOSA/SCST Annual Meeting and ASTA meetings in the USA. Sergio Pasquini and Ruoqing Wang represented ISTA at the AOSA/SCST Annual Meeting and Keshavulu Kunusoth at the ASTA meetings in 2025.

5. Collaboration and exchange of information with the seed trade and seed industry. At the international level this is ISF and at the regional level it is with organisations such as AFSTA, APSA, ASTA, Euroseeds and SAA. ISTA President Ernest Allen and Keshavulu Kunusoth ISTA Immediate Past President attended the APSA meeting. Sergio Pasquini and Andreas Wais also attended the Euroseeds Congress. The regional representative from the ECOM (Vanessa Sosa) attended the Seed Associations of the Americas (SAA) Congress in 2025.

6. A meeting of NAPPO in the American region was attended by ISTA President. Ernest Allen. The meeting provided an opportunity to engage in discussions on plant health, phytosanitary standards, and issues relevant to seed health, while strengthening cooperation with plant protection organisations in the region.

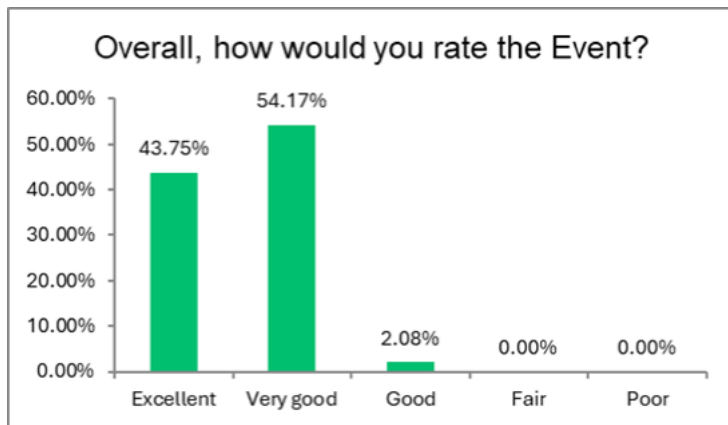
7. Another international activity is the World Seed Partnership, a collaboration between ISF, ISTA, OECD, UPOV and WFO. This activity is used as an information platform to distribute key information on seeds and the role of each organisation as partners within the seed sector. The overall aim of the World Seed Partnership is the improvement of sustainability and security of seed supply worldwide.

3.4 Events Working Group

Members: Sergio Pasquini (Chair), Craig McGill, Ruel Gesmundo, Didier Demilly, Ruoqing Wang (for AM 2026), Olga Stöckli, Andreas Wais, Manuela Nagel (for Seed Symposium).

The Events Working Group develops the events policy for the Association for discussion and approval by the Executive Committee and supports the Secretariat in the organisation of ISTA events, in particular Annual Meetings and Congresses.

The 34th Congress was held in Christchurch, New Zealand, beginning with a two-day seed symposium focused on "Seed Quality for Global Food Security and Biodiversity." This included a forum covering new plant breeding technologies. Experts from around the world gathered to discuss advances in seed testing, plant health, phytosanitary measures, and breeding techniques. The event attracted over 152 participants across 32 countries, reflecting the diversity of the seed science community and industry. A satisfaction survey sent to attendees revealed very high levels of approval.



During the Ordinary General Meeting, hosting countries for upcoming ISTA events were announced. The Annual Meeting 2026 will take place from June 22 to 25 in Calgary, Canada, with preparations underway and the Westin Hotel contacted as the venue. The Annual Meeting 2027 will be held in Angers, France from July 5 to 8, with Terra Botanica reserved for the event. Congress 2028 is scheduled for Kigali, Rwanda, with preparations set to begin in 2026.

3.5 Marketing and Publication Working Group

Members: Ignacio Aranciaga (Chair), Irena Gera, Sergio Pasquini, Andreas Wais, Yoana Uzunova and Karen de la Rosa.

The Marketing and Publication Working Group aims to develop the marketing and publication policy in the Association for discussion and approval by the Executive Committee. It also supports and assists the Secretariat with marketing initiatives.

In 2025 a diverse range of digital marketing initiatives were undertaken via ISTA social media channels LinkedIn, YouTube and X (formerly Twitter) as well as via the ISTA website, and weekly newsletter. The LinkedIn and X activities have continued with regular posts. On X ISTA has more than 2881 (growth of 6%) and on LinkedIn > 15,196 followers (growth of 17%) with an increased level of engagement. Finally, on YouTube, ISTA has over 2,830 subscribers (growth of 30%).

The ISTA newsletter continues to give the possibility to increase contact with members and with other organizations/colleagues around the world and allow more fluent information related with various topics of the Association. In 2025, ISTA reached 1491 subscribers.

In addition, 10 webinars were developed covering a wide range of topics and addressing different ISTA objectives. Building on this success, a more comprehensive webinar strategy has been developed to sustain and further increase interest and engagement in ISTA webinars. All the above communications channels are growing yearly, strengthening and establishing the ISTA presence worldwide.

Finally, and continuing with the aim to promote the use of the ISTA Rules worldwide and to attract more people to participate in ISTA, the 2026 International Rules for Seed Testing is in 4 languages (English, French, German and Spanish) and a tutorial guide on how to download the Rules from Ingenta Connect has been published.

3.6 Tropical and sub tropical species

Members: Vanessa Sosa (Chair), Ruel Gesmundo, Claid Mujaju, Irena Gera, Naden Ettel, Andreas Wais.

The tropical and sub tropical species Working Group plays a strategic role in supporting the expansion of the ISTA Rules to species of growing relevance in tropical and sub tropical regions. This work contributes to strengthening harmonized seed quality evaluation and supports international trade in emerging and regionally important crops.

The activities of the group are conducted in accordance with the document “Process for Adding Tropical and Sub-Tropical Species to the ISTA Rules”, in force since 2024. Work is carried out based on a previously established list of priority species, ensuring a structured and needs-based approach.

During 2025, the group achieved the following advances:

- Moringa oleracea
The validation study of the germination method progressed. The study is currently under technical evaluation by the Statistic Committee and has not yet been concluded.
- Allium sativum
The validation process is at an advanced stage. Finalization requires agreement on the appropriate working sample size.
- Amaranthus viridis
Validation is similarly at an advanced stage, with only the determination of the working sample size remaining.

The group will continue working in close coordination with the different Technical Committees to finalize these validations and advance the formal inclusion of these species in the ISTA Rules.

3.7 Technical Committee Working Group

Members: Craig McGill (Chair), Ruel Gesmundo, Claid Mujaju, Sergio Pasquini, Ruoqing Wang, Nadine Ettel, Andreea Militaru, Andreas Wais.

The Technical Committee Working Group develops Technical Committee policy for discussion and approval by the Executive Committee and works closely with the ISTA Secretariat in discussing and implementing the policy. This group is also responsible for initial evaluation of applications for the special project funding and providing a recommendation to the ECOM on a decision. One project was approved in 2025 for the development of the Wild Species website (Seed Testing Protocols - Testing Wild Seeds (TWS)). The working group also discussed and prepared a case for the extension of the ISTA Reference Pest List project for an ECOM decision.

The working group also reviewed the proposed TCOM Working Programmes for the 2025-2028 Triennium for any clarification in the working programmes needed from the TCOM's. This is in preparation for the approval of the working programmes by the Executive Committee.

The working group has also developed a proposal to revise the format for TCOM Reports in Seed Testing International (STI). The aim is to reduce the repetition of information. The TCOM's will no longer provide a general report about their activities in STI. Instead, there will be one report covering the TCOM Presentations during the Annual Meeting / Congress highlighting key developments, with a link to the TCOM presentations. The TCOMs may need to add more explanatory text in their presentation for readers not at the Annual Meeting / Congress.

TCOMs are also encouraged to continue to submit articles on specific activities such as workshop reports, and summaries of method validation reports but also other activities that will be of interest to stakeholders. The working group worked with the Secretariat to organise the Executive Committee - Technical Committee Meeting in conjunction with the Congress in Christchurch. Key topics discussed were changes to workshop organisation including a new policy on workshop announcements to provide more time for participant registration, Rules discussion, TCOM succession planning specifically TCOM feedback on changes made as a result of the 2024 ECOM-TCOM meeting, for example the possibility of TCOM's having two vice-Chairs and recognition of working group members on the ISTA website, expansion of seed testing and proposed changes to tropical / sub-tropical species validation process / method validation in general, production of training videos to assisting with staff training in ISTA laboratories, introduction of a literature management system for the TCOM's – production of training videos.

3.8 Finance WG Working Group

Members: Sergio Pasquini (Chair), Craig McGill, Ignacio Aranciaga, Ruel Gesmundo, Keshavulu Kunusoth, Andreas Wais.

The membership fees remained unchanged and the provision of 10% discounts for early payments, i.e. on or before 31 December 2026 were maintained. A new membership group will be introduced.

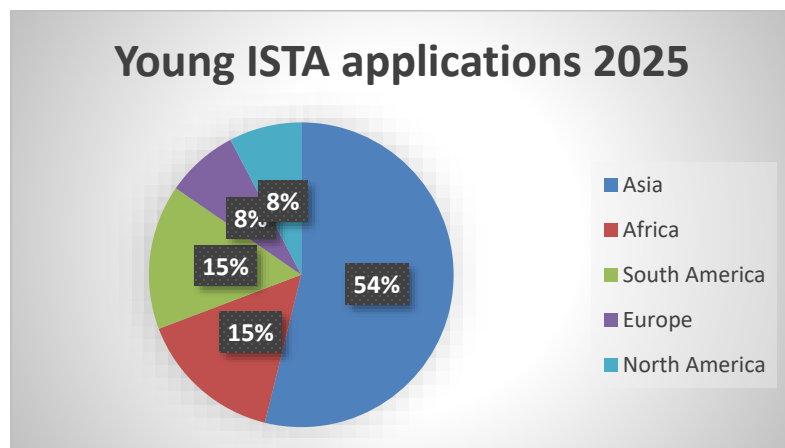
The fully detailed balances report can be seen in the SG Report.

3.9 Young@ISTA Project

Members: Keshavulu Kunusoth (Chair), Craig McGill, Sergio Pasquini, Claid Mujaju, Andreas Wais, Olga Stoeckli.

The programme was officially launched during the ISTA seed symposium-2022 held in Athens, Greece in November 2022 in the presence of a good number of younger seed professionals who were presenting their work.

In the year 2025 we have received 33 applications for funding. ISTA supported a total of 13 applicants 3 for workshops, 6 for the Congress, and 4 applications for SST publication coming from all continents.



3.10 Seed Health Working Group

Members: Craig McGill (Chair), Keshavulu Kunusoth, Ruel Gesmundo, Didier Demilly, Andreas Wais.

The role of the Seed Health Working Group is to (i) assess ISTA’s current and future role in seed health and (ii) develop policy proposals, including resources needed, for discussion and voting by the ISTA Executive Committee. The Seed Health Working Group closely collaborates with the Seed Health Committee.

The Seed Health Working Group in collaboration with the Seed Health Committee has been working on developing a new approach for accreditation for seed health. The aim of this proposal is to move to a more flexible accreditation approach that will facilitate a greater number of laboratories being accredited for seed health for a wider range of methods. The aim is to attract more laboratories and have them accredited by ISTA for validated seed health methods to support growth in capacity for testing for seed health and ensure ISTA remains the standard for seed health accreditation globally.

The working group in collaboration with the seed health committee has also begun to assess the potential for ISTA to “approve” externally validated seed health methods. The aim is to provide confidence to users of these methods in the technical soundness of the externally validated methods. The policy for this new approach is still under discussion including how different to the ISTA Seed Health Method Validation approach is acceptable for a method to be “approved” by ISTA. Whether these methods should become methods in the ISTA Rules is still under discussion.

3.11 Vegetable Seed Industry Working Group

Members: Berta Killermann (Chair until May 2025) Craig McGill (Chair from May 2025), Merel Langens (Vice-Chair), colleagues from the Vegetable Seed Industry, ISF and ISTA.

The Vegetable Seed Industry Working Group identifies existing options, challenges, opportunities and alternatives to current vegetable seed sampling and testing methodologies, defines the questions from, and priorities of the Vegetable Seed Industry and identifies opportunities and propose solutions for Vegetable Seed Industry needs.

The Vegetable Seed Industry Working Group has members from the Seed Industry, ISF, ECOM, Technical Committees and ISTA Secretariat.

The Rules proposal “Revision of the sub-lot allowance for *Solanum lycopersicum* and other fleshy vegetable seeds” was voted on and approved at the ISTA Congress 2025. This allows Capsicum spp., *Citrullus lanatus*, *Cucumis melo* and *Cucumis sativus* “to have a maximum of 20 sublots are allowed provided that the maximum original seed lot size does not exceed 1000kg and each subplot has a weight of

at least 5 % of the weight of the original seed lot.” The working group is discussing the next priorities for the working group.

3.12 Expansion of Seed Testing Worldwide Working Group

Members: Ignacio Aranciaga (Chair), Vanessa Sosa, Ruel Gesmundo, Claid Mujaju, Sergio Pasquini and Craig McGill.

Following the ISTA mission of ensure uniformity in seed quality evaluation worldwide and being necessary to expand the ISTA's presence in new regions and countries where it is not yet present or is underrepresented. Different activities have been developed to increase ISTA's presence worldwide. Being important to remark that the intention of this WG activities is not to limit the expansion in all areas of the world, but recognises that are some areas of the world where focussed effort will be required for ISTA to expand in its.

In February 2025, the ECOM meeting was in Philippines. During this meeting, the ECOM met with Philippine’s authorities to strength the relationships and to detect some potential futures actions to develop in this region.

A Memorandum of Understanding between IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture) and ISTA was signed in order to strengthen future joint actions in the Latin America region.

A situational assessment and detection of possible future actions to develop in Asia and Africa regions is ongoing. Under this work, a meeting with APSA representatives was performed.

The figure/role of ‘ISTA advocate’, created with the objective to reach countries were ISTA is not present and/or is underrepresented was implemented.

Finally, with the aim of facilitating/improving the achievement of the ISTA strategy, a new working group was created within the ECOM focused exclusively on facilitating the inclusion of new species (especially tropical and subtropical species) in ISTA Rules.

3.13 AOSA/SCST Collaboration

Members: Ruoqing Wang (Chair), Ruel Gesmundo, Keshavulu Kunusoth, Craig McGill, Ignacio Aranciaga, Sergio Pasquini, Andreas Wais.

This is a new working group of ECOM created after 2025 Congress, responding the seed testing industry's need to facility seed trade with consistent testing methods. The aim of this working group is to 1) harmonise testing rules to gain comparable or uniform seed quality evaluation using different rules where it is possible, 2) collaborate to develop resources or solutions for common challenges faced by seed testing laboratories, and 3) share good practices to benefit both organisations.

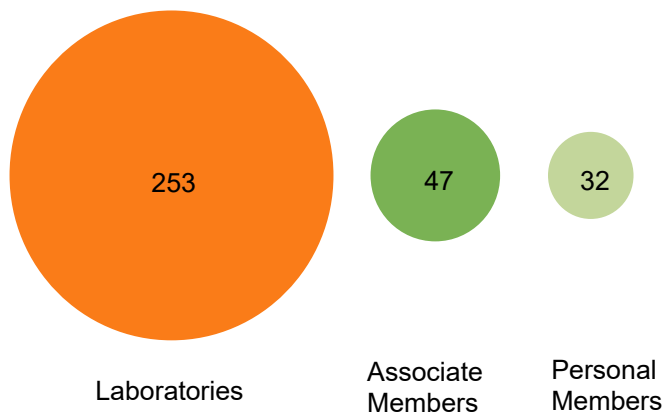
In June of 2025, the working group chair and a member, Ruoqing and Sergio, attended the AOSA-SCST annual meeting held in Missoula, Montana, USA. Ruoqing and Sergio joined the facilitation organisation meeting, Sergio provided updates of ISTA, both attended various committee meetings. A meeting report was provided to the ECOM with observations. The working group also have a virtual meeting to discuss and identify working programs. The working group will continue to work on priority field for collaborations. Two areas are obvious identified by the working group for collaboration within the two organisations that are analyst training and method validation for new species.

B. Reports of the Secretary General, Proficiency Test Committee, Rules Committee, Editorial Board and Seed Science Advisory Group

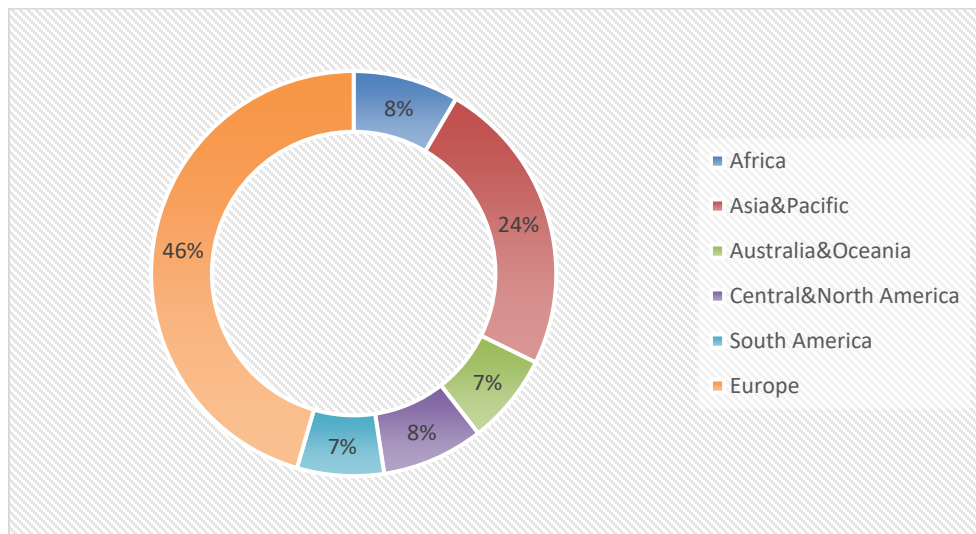
1. ISTA Membership



ISTA Membership 2025

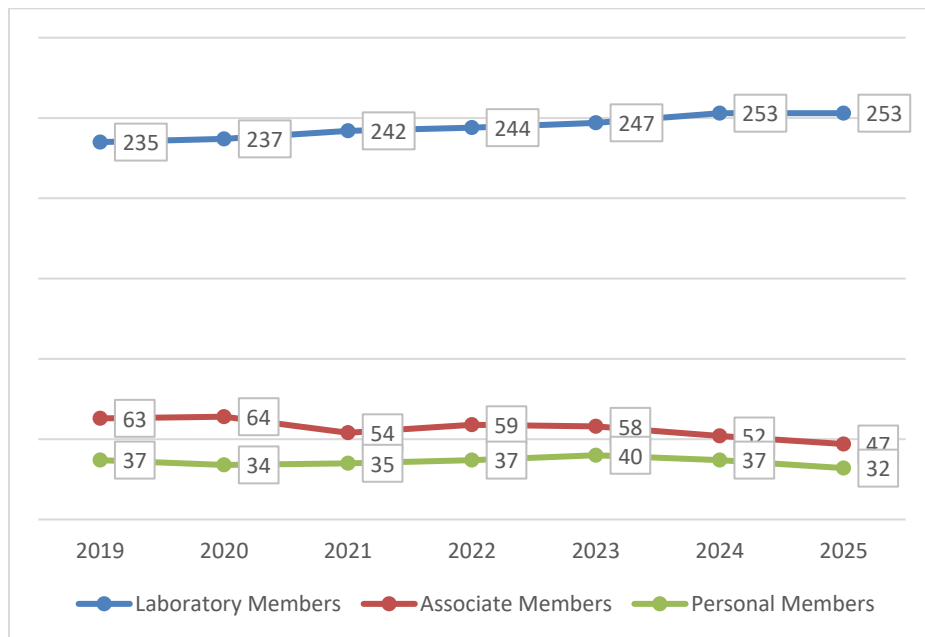


ISTA has at least one member in 81 countries





ISTA Members 2019 - 2025



Honorary Members

According to section III., Article 4 (h) of the Articles of the ISTA:

“An Honorary Life Member is a person who in the opinion of the Association has made an outstanding contribution to the Association, and has been honoured by election to the status.”

The elected Honorary Life Members as of 2025 are:

Joël Léchappé (2019)
Grethe Tarp (2016)
Alison A. Powell (2013)
Ronald Don (2008)
Norbert Leist (2007)
Rita Zecchinelli (2022)
Steve Jones (2025)
Berta Killermann (2025)

Furthermore, Attilio Lovato was elected Honorary President at the Congress 2001.

2. Activity Report of the Rules Committee

Overview of Members:

The Rules Committee is composed of all the Chairpersons of the Technical Committees, the Chief Editor of SST, the AOSA Rules Committee Chair, the SCST Co-Chair, and the Honorary President. As part of joint initiatives with AOSA the AOSA/SCST Rules Chairs are *ex-officio* members with voting privileges within the ISTA Rules Committee, and the ISTA Rules Chair is an *ex-officio* member of the AOSA Rules Committee. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Rules Committee are appointed by the ISTA Executive Committee (ECOM).

The Rules Committee members are:

Chair:	Jodi Keeling	USA
Vice-Chair:	Janek Bartel	Canada
Observer:	Florina Palada (ISTA Secretariat)	
ECOM:	Ernest Allen	USA
	Ignacio Aranciaga	Argentina
Members:	Ruud Barnhoorn (SHC)	The Netherlands
	Sarah Dammen (FSC)	USA
	Didier Demilly (PTC)	France
	Marie-Claude Gagnon (VAR)	Canada
	Axel Goeritz (MOI)	Germany
	Corinne Guimier (BSC)	France
	Fiona R. Hay (SST)	United Kingdom
	Hulya Ilbi (VIG)	Türkiye
	David Johnston (GER)	USA
	Andrea Jonitz (PUR)	Germany
	Jayanthi Nadarajan (STO)	New Zealand
	Enrico Noli (GMO)	Italy
	Sergio Pasquini (TEZ)	Italy
	Kirk Redmond (STA)	USA
	Melanie Schori (NOM)	USA
	Elisa Vieira (FTC)	Brazil
	Gil Waibel (WSC)	USA
	Bert van Duijn (ATC)	The Netherlands
<i>Ex-officio:</i>	Lan Chi Trinh (AOSA)	United States

Activity Highlights

This year, a new Vice-chair was selected to lead the ISTA Rules Committee, Janek Bartel. Janek has been involved with seed testing for nearly fifteen years. He is currently the Laboratory Manager of the ISTA accredited laboratory SGS Crop Science Lab in Canada. Janek has been involved in rules proposals and issues throughout his work on the Germination TCOM and various national committees.

The Rules Committee is responsible for reviewing the annual Rules Proposals and ensuring that the proposals are technically consistent between the different Chapters. Rules proposals can come from anyone but are usually made by one of the Technical Committees and/or the ISTA Accreditation Department. The procedures for submitting proposals and adding new species to the ISTA Rules are outlined in the Introduction to the Rules. The Rules Chair is responsible for editing the Rules and presenting the proposals for vote at the Ordinary Meeting on behalf of the Executive and Rules Committees.

Staff at the ISTA Secretariat assists the Rules TCOM by collating the Rules Proposals and validation studies and then coordinating the translation and production of the revised Rules. Following the results of the annual voting meeting, the amended Rules are edited, translated and distributed to the membership. The revised electronic version of the ISTA Rules (2026 edition) was available to download by mid-December 2025. This was achieved due to the team work of the Rules TCOM, ISTA Secretariat, translations from the French, German, Spanish laboratories and proof setting in InDesign by Vanessa Sutcliffe of HeartWood Editorial (www.heartwoodeditorial.co.uk). The ISTA Rules Committee and the Secretariat are committed to providing the revised rules document to the membership as soon as possible but always by the January deadline. It is important to remember that while the rules are not required to be published until 1 January, the approved rules from the Ordinary General Meeting are available on the ISTA website in the meeting documents. The publication of these documents, shortly after the OGM, should allow laboratories sufficient time to amend any laboratory specific QA procedures necessary to comply with the updated rules.

For details on how to download the electronic version see the Publications section of the ISTA website. The rules are still printable in the electronic files which contains the English, French, German, and Spanish versions. It is worth remembering that if there is any doubt about the interpretation of the ISTA Rules, the English version is the official reference version.

The Rules Chair regularly receives enquiries on a range of issues relating to the interpretation of the Rules, often as the result of accreditation audits. These queries are very useful, and can lead to changes to the Rules and new proposals to help improve the implementation and understanding of the Rules. Enquiries often focus on how to complete the ISTA Certificates (Chapter 1 of the ISTA Rules). To assist laboratories in compiling with the requirements of Chapter 1 of the ISTA Rules see document Acc P 07 “How to complete ISTA Certificates” which is available on the ISTA website at: <https://www.seedtest.org/en/services-header/documents/accreditation-documents.html>

Overview of Rules change proposals approved in May 2025.

Changes for the 2026 Edition of the ISTA Rules approved at the Ordinary General Meeting in May 2025 can be found on the ISTA website at:

[ISTA Congress 2025 - International Seed Testing Association](#)

Summary List of changes approved at the OGM for the 2026 Rules Edition:

A.1. Editorial corrections

B.1 New species addition: *Diplotaxis tenuifolia*

B.2 Nomenclature changes

C.1.1 Revision of subplot allowance for *Solanum lycopersicum* and other fleshy vegetable species

C.2.1. Maximum seed lot size for *Solanum lycopersicum* reset to 10 000 kg.

C.5.1 Revised wording to clarify the first count may be postponed or omitted

C.5.2. Change in percentage of Potassium nitrate solution permitted

C.6.1. Change minimum number of seeds required for tetrazolium test

C.6.2. Rounding tetrazolium results

C.7.1 Detection of *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *lycopersici* in *Solanum lycopersicum* (tomato) seed (7-034)

C.9.1 Adaption of Table 9A to Table 2C

C.9.2 Period allowed between sampling and moisture testing

C.15.1 Addition of *Brassica* spp. for the Radicle emergence test

C.15.2 Precision of temperature for Accelerating Ageing chambers

C.16.1 Revision of entire Chapter 16; rename chapter

C.19.1 Clarification of when an Orange or Blue International certificate can be issued for GMO test results

Sales of online ISTA Rules for 2023-2025

Item		2023		2024		2025	
		Sold	Income (CHF)	Sold	Income (CHF)	Sold	Income (CHF)
Royalties from direct download sales (remitted in USD)	Full Rules issues	9	CHF 3'675.48	10	CHF 4'696.00	6	CHF 2'452.55
	Single chapters	14	CHF 1'251.26	25	CHF 2'703.25	10	CHF 931.35
Sales via Secretariat (CHF)	Multiple-user access (non-member labs)	9	CHF 12'599.86	12	CHF 16'200.00	11	CHF 15'400.00
	Single-user access (Associate Members, non members)	67	CHF 24'274.06	71	CHF 27'168.00	61	CHF 23'237.69
Total		99	CHF 41'800.66	118	CHF 50'767.25	88	CHF 42'021.59

3. Accreditation Programme

Report of the Proficiency Test Committee and standard PT coordinator

This is an overview of the standard proficiency test program; the activity related to the seed health proficiency test and to the GMO Proficiency Test is presented under the related Committee chapters.

Proficiency tests preparation dispatch and reporting 2025

In 2025 the five PT leaders prepared 3270 samples, performed 11 heterogeneity tests, and added 16100 seeds in the samples for the OSD test. Also 200 mixture seed sample were prepared by the Purity Committee for training purposes without rating and included in the PT 25-1 *Oryza sativa* (see Table B.3.1). As usual, the ISTA secretariat received the samples prepared by the PT leaders and forwarded them to the participating laboratories, securing the shipments and complying with customs and phytosanitary requirements of the recipient countries.

Table B.3.1. List of species and test types for 2025

Round	Species	Test round scope	Test leader	Number of samples	Number of participants
25-1	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	G, OIC	Adrienn Abos	3 x 220	180
25-1	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	P, OSD, G, TZ	Leanne Duncan	3 x 230	160
25-2	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	P, OSD, G, TZ, TSW, OIC	Elena Perri	3 x 250	210
	MIX for training from the Purity Committee			200	
25-3	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	G, TZ	Elena Takacova	3 x 150	100
25-3	<i>Chenopodium quinoa</i>	G	Didier Demilly	3 x 240	200

P-purity, OSD-other seeds determination, G-germination, TZ-tetrazolium test, OIC-reporting on an ISTA Certificate, MIX-mixture of other seeds for seed identification, TSW-Thousand seed weight test.

We thank companies that provided freely seeds : KWS company Germany for *Beta vulgaris*, radicle crops Netherlands for *Chenopodium quinoa* and two companies : Società Agricola Giulio Melzi d’Eril - Belgioioso (PV) and Tecnoseed Srl - Pavia (PV) for *Oryza sativa*.

Reporting of Proficiency test results

In 2025, the statistical analysis and reports was done by the ISTA Secretariat for four PT rounds: PT24-3 *Coriandrum sativum* and PT24-3 *Lactuca sativa*, evaluated in March and April 2025, PT25-1 *Festuca rubra* and PT25-1 *Beta vulgaris*, evaluated in July and August 2025. Results of the PT25-2 *Oryza sativa* are evaluated in January and February 2026.

Summary reports, test and seed pictures were published and are available on the ISTA website: <https://www.seedtest.org/en/proficiency-tests/standard-pt-results.html>.

Evaluation of the PT25-3 results for *Pinus sylvestris* and *Chenopodium quinoa* is expected for March and April 2026.

Germination test results of the PT24-2 *Arachis hypogaea* were calculated in December 2024 and showed very high standard deviation. The obtained results were verified by the ISTA Statistical Committee, and the test was not validated. Therefore, the germination test was cancelled. The detailed reasons for this cancellation are explained in the summary report of the PT.

We received and answered 16 questions, request of explanation or complaints from participants.

The following diagrams represent the trend in performance of accredited laboratories versus non-accredited for the four PT results published in 2025. It is noticeable that voluntary participants have less A ratings and more C and BMP ratings in comparison to accredited laboratories.

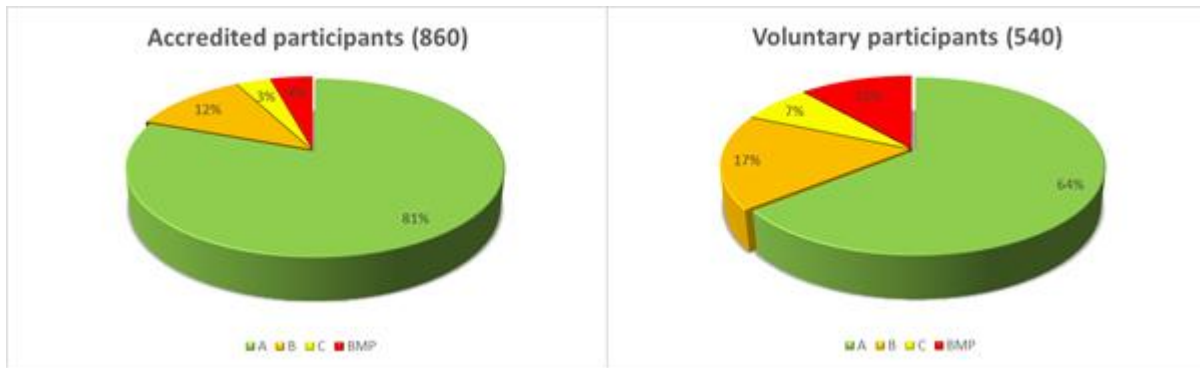


Figure 1: Laboratories ratings for the year 2025 for all tests and all participants on PT24-3 on *Coriandrum sativum*, PT24-3 on *Lactuca sativa*, PT25-1 on *Beta vulgaris* and PT25-1 on *Festuca rubra*. Comparison between accredited and voluntary participating laboratories.

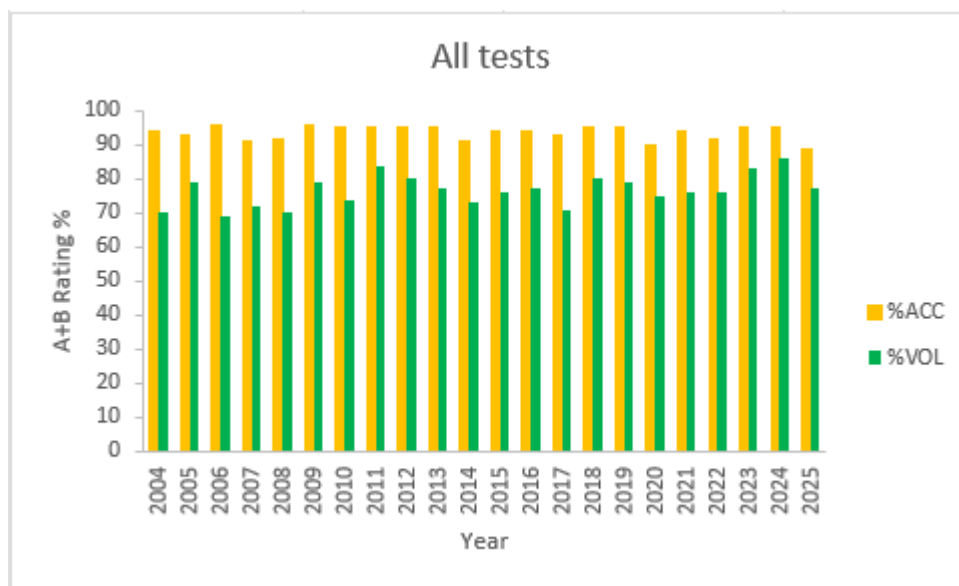


Figure 2: A and B ratings trend for accredited and non-accredited laboratories

Figure 2 shows that rating A and B is always higher for accredited compared to volunteers' laboratories. The percentage of A and B ratings for accredited laboratories since 2004 is stable and equal to or higher than 90%. This shows the high proficiency of accredited laboratories and gives confidence in the test results of accredited laboratories.

Goals and objectives

The main goal of the PT Committee and PT Coordinator is to prepare and distribute the PT samples to participants in good time and good condition, as well as to timely calculate the laboratories test results. The program contributes strongly to uniformity and to the proficiency in seed testing. It also serves as a monitoring tool for the performance of ISTA accredited laboratories. These tasks require manpower, specific skills and communication. In 2025 the PTC chair, PT coordinator and PTC members/PT leaders exchanged 800 e-mails. The new member of the PT Committee, Elena Takacova from Slovakia, successfully organized a PT round on forest species. Sourcing of seed lots for this PT round was difficult as the quantity of seed needed for the PT purpose exceeded the normally available seed lots. In addition, due to the extremely high cost of the forest seed, we had to cancel moisture test samples for this PT round.

The PT Programme plan for the next 3-annual period (2026-2028) was provided to member laboratories after its approval, and it is available on the ISTA Website (<https://www.seedtest.org/api/rm/J2D67843973C326/pt-programme-plan-2026-2028.pdf>). The individual forms are collected back and entered in the PT database regarding voluntary participation of members. PT leaders are thereof informed on the number of future participants and the PT rounds for 2026 are already under preparation. In addition, on 30 June a Webinar regarding the Standard PT Programme Plan 2026-2028 was organised and it is recorded on the ISTA YouTube channel.

Additionally, the Proficiency test Procedure (<https://www.seedtest.org/api/rm/F4FEUJ7K2H47SX2/pt-p-01-ista-standard-proficiency-test-7-0-2.pdf>) and the sample preparation procedure were updated in 2025. We will apply those new versions for the next standard PTs in 2026.

As in previous years, we focus on the preparation of the samples and distribution in good condition, as well as issuing final reports and archiving and keeping data secure in the database. We expect all accredited laboratories to participate in the 2026 PT rounds and to achieve an A and B ratings of over 90% on all tests. We also aim to increase the performance of non-accredited laboratories.

4. Audit programme

In 2025 were performed 49 re-accreditation audits, six accreditation audits, one re-audit and two extensions of the scope with on-site assessment. For 52 audits out of 58, the audit was performed with on-site assessment, and six audits were performed completely remote. For all audits performed remote the approval of the Accreditation Working Group was required.

Three laboratories voluntary terminated their ISTA accreditation.

5. Accreditation under the Performance- Based Approach

By the end of this year 12 laboratories were accredited under the principles of the Performance-Based Approach:

Table B.3.16 Laboratories accredited under the principles of Performance-Based Approach

Country/Distinct economy	ISTA laboratory code
ARGENTINA	AR01
AUSTRIA	AT03
DENMARK	DK08
FRANCE	FR03
HUNGARY	HU01
ITALY	IT01 and IT03
JAPAN	JP03 and JP07
SERBIA	RS02
URUGUAY	UY02
USA	US11

6. Accreditation administration

The Accreditation and Technical Departments is formed by five staff at ISTA Secretariat and supported by 30 contracted auditors approved at the end of 2025.

At ISTA Secretariat the staff is formed by Florina Palada – Head of the Accreditation and technical Department, System and Technical auditor, Branislava Opra – System auditor, and technical auditor with sampling competence, Standard PT coordinator and Quality Manager, Stella Marcu – System auditor and Standard PT administrator.

Neelam Oek and Beata Hübnerova are supporting the department for the audits administration (communication within the auditors, audits arrangements with the laboratories, auditors travel) and administration of the ISTA paper Certificate. Neelam Oek and Stella Marcu are responsible for the eCertificates.

Contracted auditors in 2025: 2 System and Technical auditor, 6 System auditors, 13 Technical auditors, 3 Variety and GMO Experts, 1 GMO Expert and 1 SH and Variety Expert and 2 technical auditors with sampling expertise and 2 SH Experts.

From the current number of auditors, in 2025 were approved one technical auditor with sampling expertise, 2 technical auditors for standard tests and 2 SH Experts.

One technical auditor decided to stop performing audits for ISTA.

The Accreditation and Technical Department has continued to recruit new contracted system and technical auditors to perform ISTA audits. Five candidates (3 system auditors, and 2 technical auditors) are still in different steps of the training process.

For three more applications to be ISTA contracted auditors the training process will start in 2026.

7. Document updates

The ISTA Accreditation Standard for Seed Testing and Seed Sampling version 7.0 approved by ECOM in 2023 was the reference for performing the audits of 2025.

This is year audit documents received back the standard ISTA Logo, and several documents were revised:

- Acc-F-09 Accreditation application (ISTA crop groups and Moisture test were added at the sampling part)
- Acc-P-08 How to develop Quality Documentation
- Acc-P-09 How to respond the audit findings and the related forms for reporting the audit findings
- Acc-P-07 Procedure on how to complete ISTA Certificates (aligned to ISTA Rules 2025)
- PT-P-01 ISTA Standard Proficiency Test
- PT-P-02 Proficiency Test Sample Preparation
- Acc-D-06B Directive for accreditation of laboratories and Sampling entities with sampling unit at multiple sites (validity 01.01.2026)
- ISTA Accreditation standard, version 8.0 (validity 01.01.2026); the name is changed to *ISTA Accreditation Standard for Seed Sampling and Testing*

8. Accreditation figures

A complete list of accredited ISTA laboratories is shown in Table B.3.18. The regional distribution of the accredited laboratories is given in Figures B.3.19.

Table B.3.18 List of accredited laboratories – 2025

Country/Distinct Economy	ISTA Laboratory code
Argentina	AR01
Austria	AT03, AT04
Australia	AU01, AU02, AU06, AU07, AU09, AU13
Bangladesh	BD03
Belgium	BE02, BE03, BE05
Bulgaria	BG01
Bolivia	BO01
Brazil	BR07, BR08, BR12
Canada	CA04, CA08, CA10, CA12
Switzerland	CH01
Chile	CL02

China	CN01, CN04, CN13
Czech Republic	CZ03
Germany	DE03, DE04, DE05, DE06, DE07, DE09, DE10, DE13, DE15, DE16, DE17, DE18, DE19, DE23
Denmark	DK03, DK04, DK06, DK08, DK09, DK11
Estonia	EE01
Egypt	EG01
Spain	ES01
Finland	FI01
France	FR02, FR03, FR04, FR07, FR08, FR09, FR11, FR13
United Kingdom	GB01, GB04, GB06
Greece	GR01, GR02
Croatia	HR03
Hungary	HU01, HU02, HU04
Indonesia	ID01, ID02, ID03
Ireland	IE01
Israel	IL01
India	IN05, IN06, IN07, IN12, IN14, IN16, IN39, IN45, IN47
Iran	IR01
Italy	IT01, IT03, IT06, IT07, IT09, IT10
Japan	JP01, JP03, JP05, JP06, JP07
Kyrgyzstan	KG01
Kenya	KE01
South Korea	KR02, KR03
Lithuania	LT01
Luxemburg	LU01
Latvia	LV01
Moldova	MD01

Malawi	MW01
Mexico	MX01
Nigeria	NG01
Netherlands	NL02, NL03, NL05, NL11
Norway	NO01
New Zealand	NZ01, NZ03, NZ05
Philippines	PH01, PH03, PH04
Pakistan	PK01
Poland	PL05, PL07
Portugal	PT01
Romania	RO05, RO06, RO07, RO08
Serbia	RS01, RS02, RS03
Russian Federation	RU01, RU03, RU04, RU05
Sweden	SE02, SE07
Slovenia	SI01
Slovakia	SK01, SK02
Senegal	SN01
Thailand	TH03, TH04, TH05
Türkiye	TR01, TR03, TR06
SCT of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	TW01
Tanzania	TZ02
Ukraine	UA01
Uganda	UG02
USA	US01, US05, US06, US07, US10, US11, US12
Uruguay	UY02
South Africa	ZA02, ZA03, ZA04, ZA05, ZA06
Zambia	ZM01
Zimbabwe	ZW01
Total number of accredited laboratories 163	

There are 66 countries/distinct economies with at least one ISTA-accredited laboratory. There are four more candidate for accreditation with the ISTA audit performed in the last part of 2025.

Figure B.3.19 Regional distribution of the 163 ISTA accredited laboratories, December 2025

Regional distribution of ISTA accredited laboratories %

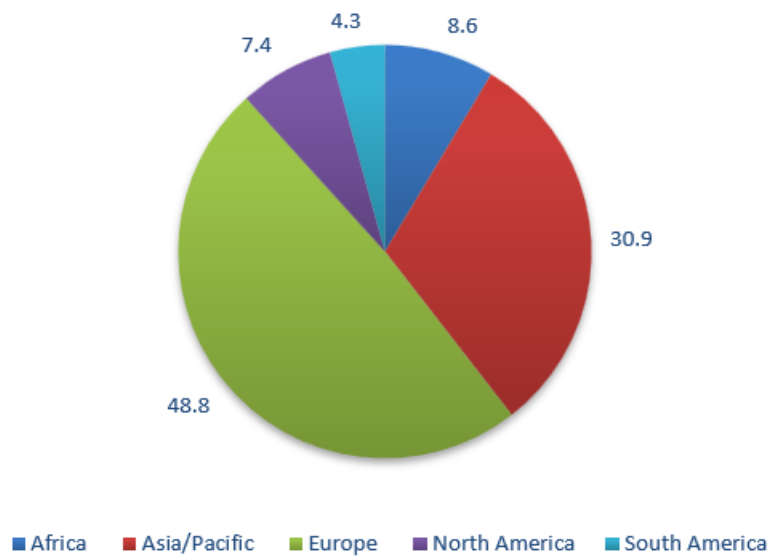
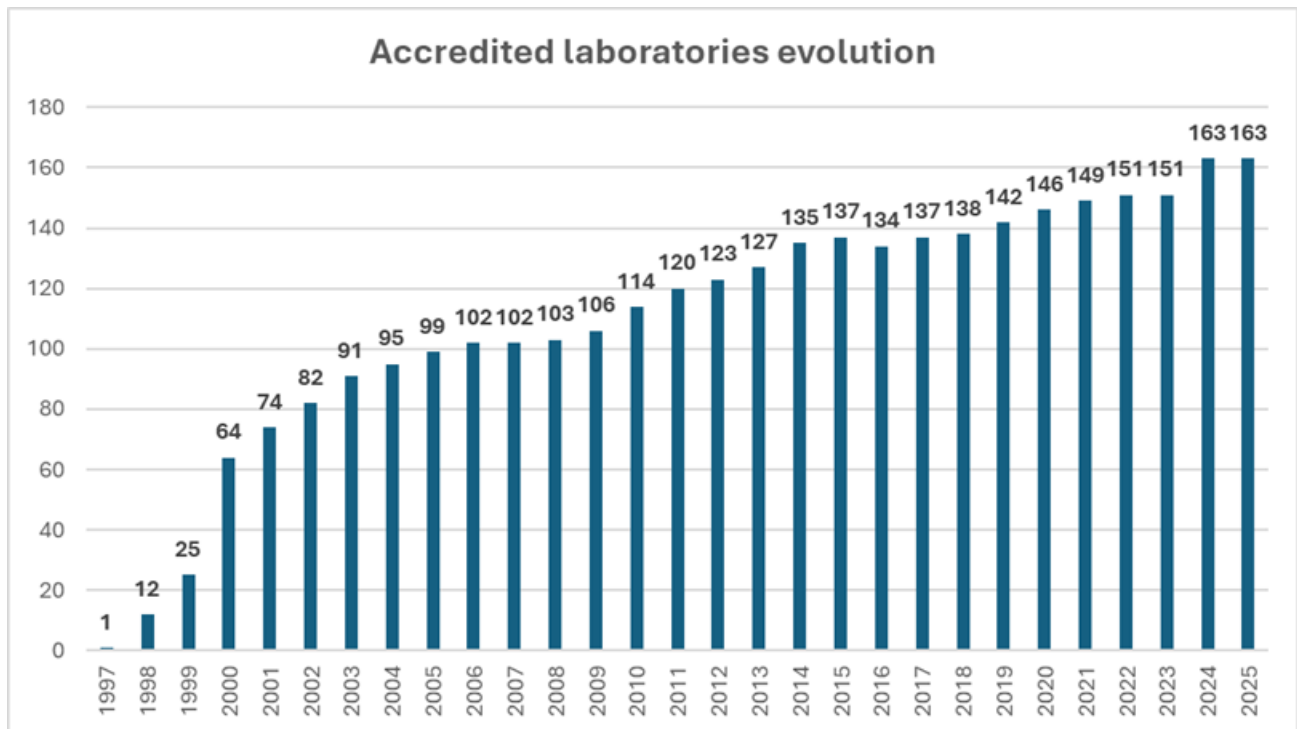


Figure B.3.20 Number of ISTA accredited laboratories since 1997



Contribution of Accreditation Department team to:

- eCertificates Project and eCertificates implementation
- ISTA Website update
- ISTA Secretariat QMS revision
- Certification surveillance audit
- Guideline for equipment calibration
- Contribution to the Guidelines of Advanced Technology Applications for Seed Testing - *Computer vision*

Presence in social media:

- ISTA Webinar on ISTA Risk assessment
- ISTA Webinar on how to perform the Management review
- ISTA Webinars on eCertificates
- ISTA webinar to introduce the changes of the ISTA Accreditation Standard and ISTA Directive Acc-D-06B – version 2.0, *Accreditation of laboratories and sampling entities with sampling units at multiple sites*
- ISTA Standard PT Programme Plan 2026-2028 webinar

STI articles:

- Seeds and Music
- News from “Bella”
- Overview of the ISTA Auditors Meeting in New Zealand

International representations

- Conference organised by the Zemun Polje Maize Institute at 80 years celebration, Belgrade, Serbia

Workshops

- Quality Assurance Workshop and ISTA accreditation for beginners – November 2025, the first workshop in French language for the African francophone countries
- Quality Assurance Workshop and ISTA accreditation for beginners is planned in Mexico in 2026 in Spanish language

Two projects are in preparation:

Accreditation of ISTA laboratories for SH tests – a new approach; with the support of the SH COM, ECOM-SH Working group, ECOM – AWG a new approach will be presented for study and approval to the full ECOM. This will consider the transition from validated methods to more method-based accreditation.

Together with Storage and BSC Committees we have initiated a Project related to the **submitted samples' storage after testing**. Other ISTA COMs will support the project, and the conclusion will improve the ISTA Rules requirement 2.5.4.7

Sales of ISTA Certificates/eCertificates

A total of **179'300** certificates and eCertificates were sold by the end of the year (Table B.3.21 and Table B.3.22).

Table B.3.21 Sales of ISTA Certificates

Paper - ISTA Certificates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Orange International Seed lot Certificates	181360	189040	214500	140900	165500
Blue International Seed Sample Certificates	18600	9500	14100	15000	11800

The ISTA eCertificate system went live on Monday 15 July 2024. We received our first order in August 2024. 12 Laboratories are now using the live system.

Table B.3.22 Sales of ISTA eCertificates

eCertificates - ISTA Certificates	August 2024	2025
Orange International Seed lot eCertificates	300	1500
Blue International Seed Sample eCertificates	100	500

4. ISTA Publications and Products

4.1 ISTA Handbooks and Proceedings

Table B.4.1. Total sales of ISTA publications 2021–2025

Type/year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Handbook on Seed Sampling	7	36	40	17	12
Handbook on Seedling Evaluation	55	42	42	35	24
Handbook on Pure Seed Definitions	5	16	11	13	9
Handbook on Moisture Determination	7	9	24	14	4
Handbook on Flower Seed Testing	22	9	8	3	3
Handbook on Seed Health Testing 2025					5
Handbook on Tetrazolium Testing 2025					0
ISTA Working Sheets on Tetrazolium Testing Vol. I	9	11	8	5	5
ISTA Working Sheets on Tetrazolium Testing Vol. II	5	3	5	6	2
Various Handbooks/Publications	29	79	46	58	43
Total Publications sold	139	205	184	151	107

4.2 Calibration Samples

The Secretariat offers calibration samples of the grass species *Dactylis glomerata* (3.0 g) and *Poa pratensis* (1.0 g) for General Seed Blowers.

In 2024 0 samples of *Poa pratensis* and 0 of *Dactylis glomerata* were sold.

5. ISTA Training and Education Programmes

5.1 ISTA Workshop overview

In 2025, 6 physical workshops were held:

ISTA Workshop on Insect detection in seed testing

France 4-5 March 2025 20 participants

ISTA Workshop on Seed Identification and Purity Analysis

Uruguay 2-4 July 2025 30 participants

ISTA Workshop on Purity and Other Seed Determination

South Africa 9-11 September 2025 29 participants

ISTA Workshop on Purity, Other Seed Determination and Moisture Analysis

Türkiye 10-15 November 2025 25 participants

ISTA/FAO French Workshop on Quality Assurance

Senegal 18-20 November 2025 21 participants

ISTA Workshop on Germination and Vigour

France 1-5 December 2025 25 participants

6. Scientific Journal ‘Seed Science and Technology’: Report of the Editorial Board

Chief Editor:

Fiona R. Hay (Denmark)

Deputy Editor:

Alison A Powell (United Kingdom)

Vigour (tests, causes of etc), physiology of ageing, also molecular aspects of ageing within limits (on the whole SST papers stay within these!), priming

Associate Editors:

Irfan Afzal (Pakistan)

Christophe Bailly (France)

Dormancy, ageing, cell signalling, oxidative stress, markers of seed vigour

Laura Bowden (United Kingdom)

Seed quality, priming, storage

Ibrahim Demir (Türkyie)

Steven P.C. Groot (Netherlands)

Seed vigour, storage

Fabio Gresta (Italy)

Legume germination, hard seed coat, seed dormancy and dormancy breaking, scarification, seed treatment, weed germination, temperature, light

Brigitte Hamman (South Africa)

Seed germination, seed quality, seed vigour testing, seed enhancement, chemical seed treatments, seed biochemistry and physiology, dormancy, longevity (storage)

Julio Marcos-Filho (Brazil)

Seed physiology and seed quality control, as seed vigour (relationship with seed performance; testing), germination, priming, storage

Andrea Mondoni (Italy)

Seed dormancy, germination, storage

Shyam S. Phartyal (Germany)

Sergey Rosbakh (Germany)

Uma Rani Sinniah (Malaysia)

Tropical crops germination, storage

Michael Sussman (USA)

Biomolecular techniques and principles pertaining to biotechnology and molecular biology

Alan Taylor (USA)

Seed treatment and coating technologies; Seed water activity/moisture content; Seed quality related to germination/viability

Christopher Wood (United Kingdom)

low temperature storage, dormancy and orchid/palm related papers

ECOM liaison officer

Ernest Allen

Title: Editorial Board of Seed Science and Technology; Fiona R. Hay (Chief Editor);
<https://www.seedtest.org/en/tcom-edi.html>.

Brief Overview: Seed Science and Technology (SST) is ISTA's international journal featuring original papers and articles on seed quality and physiology related to seed production, harvest, processing, sampling, storage, genetic conservation, habitat regeneration, distribution and testing. The journal is a keyway in which ISTA meets its objective to actively promote research and dissemination of knowledge in seed science and technology. The Editorial Board is responsible for handling the reviewing process of papers submitted for publication and ultimately, deciding whether a paper should be published or not.

Papers received: 123

Papers accepted: 40

Papers rejected: 83

Research papers published (3 regular virtual issues): $11 + 13 + 13 = 37$

One editorial article published in issue 3.

Full papers in 3 issues: $8 + 11 + 12 = 31$

Research Notes in 3 issues: $3 + 2 + 1 = 6$

Pages published in 3 issues: $138 + 174 + 240 = 552$

Average number of pages per paper (excl. editorial): 14.8

The 2024 journal impact factor published in 2025 increased to 3.0, putting Seed Science and Technology in the top quartile journal ranking within the Agronomy and Horticulture categories.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
SST Back Issues	0	0	0	2	3
SST Dowload of Individual Chapters	11	10	3	8	7
SST Open Access Fee Full Lenght Paper	15	0	10	16	13
SST Open Access Fee Research Note	3	0	11	4	7
Total SST	30	10	24	30	30

7. Report of the ISTA Secretariat

7.1 Secretariat staff

This report lists the activities and changes in the Secretariat during 2025:

On Publication (Rules, ISTA Handbooks, Seed Testing International and Website) Vanessa Sutcliffe of HeartWood Editorial assists the Secretariat with respect to proofreading and InDesign publication for all ISTA publication.

Thus, at the end of the year 2025 the Secretariat numerates the following 14 members of staff corresponding to 11.5 full time equivalent employees:

Role	Name	%FTE
Secretary General (SG)	Dr. Andreas Wais	1
Head of Accreditation and Technical Department / Deputy SG	Dr. Florina Palada	1
TCOM Manager	Nadine Ettel	0.6
TCOM Administration	Andreea Nicoleta Pinar	0.8
System Auditor, Quality Management & Standard PT Coordinator	Branislava Opra	1
System Auditor	Stella Marcu	1
Accreditation, Audit and PT Administration	Neelam Ök	0.8
Accreditation and Audit Administration	Beata Hübnerova	0.4
Finance, Sales and HR Management	Agnes Hegedüs	1
IT Business Solution Manager	Sejal Patel	1
Events, Membership and Documentation Manager	Olga Stöckli	1
Marketing & Communication Manager	Yoana Uzunova	0.7
Marketing & Communication Specialist	Karen de La Rosa	0.8
Cleaning	Ana Maria Ferreira	Hourly base

7.2 Secretariat work

The Secretariat is located in Wallisellen (Richtiring 32, postal address Richtiarkade 18). The work of the Secretariat was not affected during the past year and the employees stay permanently with the Association. The staff turnover was 0 %, which added to the stability of the Association.

During 2025 the workload in the area of eCertificates increased especially in assisting laboratories implementing them. For this reason, the ECOM approved upon request of the Secretariat an 0.1 FTE increase in staff limited for 2025. This is reflected in the presented budget for 2025.

7.3 Function

• Administration

Lead by Secretary General. The Administration team includes Agnes Hegedüs and Olga Stöckli.

The main tasks of Agnes are the financial administration, invoicing, settling all incoming and outgoing payments, ISTA publications and products sales administration, general office, HR assistance and time recording administration, as well as membership administration on financial aspects as well as checking the auditor's expense reports. She also represents the employees in the pension fund.

Olga is responsible for the Events organisation, Administration documentation and all Membership administration, organising and monitoring the Young@ISTA programme, administering the ISTA Advocates and assisting the Strategic Advisory Panel. She leads the documentation and preparation of the contractual agreements needed upfront ISTA events. Olga is responsible for the registration process. ISTA events include, but are not limited to OGM, Congresses and ECOM Meetings including the P&L process for the Annual Meetings and Congresses. Membership administration includes receiving and responding to membership queries; managing the membership database; handling all communication with members regarding their membership and payments and coordinating the assignment of designated authorities and voting nominations.

• Human Resources

The Secretary General heads HR. Agnes Hegedüs took over HR Assistant tasks since 2017.

Agnes, Florina Palada and the Secretary General maintained the HR Handbook, which is updated every year. Agnes also oversees the time and holiday recording, as well as changes in HR requirements in Switzerland.

• Finance

The Secretary General oversees the finances of the Association in the framework of the annual budget. Accounting is divided between Ronny Dossenbach of Buff Treuhand AG and Agnes Hegedüs. ISTA accounts are annually audited by BDO AG.

Following the Office365 initiative and implementing the online version of the bookkeeping programme (MS Navision) in 2023 all bookkeeping is now completely virtual. This does not only save paper, but also shows clear benefits during auditing, as documents can be exchanged seamlessly.

• IT

Computing hardware, connectivity and software is outsourced to InfoPro, a company in Bern, which is also acting as a place of the ISTA virtual storage of data and host for all ISTA used programs and databases. In the area of Invoice preparations ISTA collaborates with Prisma, a company located in Zürich. The current website is hosted by Allgeier Switzerland AG - formerly MySign AG (maintenance of the website contents is done by the Secretariat staff). Allgeier is also hosting and managing the eCertificate hub.

A software change to Office365 (MS Teams) was completed in 2021, ensuring timely updates of all MS software. This process is ongoing and under the project management of Sejal Patel. Since 2021 ISTA also transferred this system as to be used by TCOMs, Special Project coordination, ECOM and other external cooperates (including auditors and audited laboratories/sampling entities) to have access to areas of ISTA document drives, where it is needed for a seamless communication. The project also allows TCOMs to increase their internal communication as well the communication with the Secretariat. A number of TCOMs make use of this by now. All special project coordination is done via Teams as well. As a non-profit organisation ISTA profits from special rates for all MS products. IT is also responsible for the control of the following ISTA webpages: www.learn-ista.org, www.treeseedhandbook.info, www.seedhealthtestimagedb.info and www.wild-seeds.net.

ISTA uses LinkedIn learning as a tool for staff training in the Secretariat. LinkedIn learning is also under special rates for non-profit organisation.

In 2025 IT helped to generate the wild species database (www.wild-seeds.net) and to maintain the seed health image data base (www.seedhealthtestimagedb.info).

• Marketing

Social media and digital marketing

The ISTA YouTube channel has more than 2'830 subscribers, which is an increase of 30 % compared to last year. All relevant information are now posted here, and it became the main host for all ISTA video information as well as for posting the webinars and tutorials. Further ISTA continued to use its X (formerly Twitter) account, which is used for quick information to the stakeholders and interested parties. ISTA has now about 2'881 follower on X, which is an increase of 6 % compared to last year. At the end of 2025, the ISTA LinkedIn profile counted nearly 15'156 follower, which is an increase of 14 % compared to last year. Posting on LinkedIn is done up to three times a week. The posts mainly include news about the association. LinkedIn allows more in-depth information as it is not limited to the number of signs, like X. The LinkedIn Young@ISTA forum has now 630 followers, which is an increase of 15 % compared to last year.

ISTA is also to be found on Wikipedia, which is giving information on all relevant topics (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Seed_Testing_Association). This is maintained and updated frequently.

Newsletters to inform the membership are released every week (mostly on Wednesdays).

World Seed Partnership

The World Seed Partnership (WSP) is a joint initiative by five international organisations:

- International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)
- International Seed Federation (ISF)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
- World Farmer Organisation (WFO)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO NSP) – observer since 2024

The mission of the World Seed Partnership is to provide a focal point for information on internationally harmonised seed systems and to communicate their role in supporting sustainable agriculture.

Regular web conferences took place in 2025 in order to move this project forward. One in-person meeting was hosted by the ISTA Secretariat. During this meeting changes in chairing the WSP were implemented to coordinate upcoming projects in a more efficient way. For 2026 new projects should be identified.

Marketing Events

In 2025 ISTA successfully participated together with the Centro Nazionale Carabinieri Biodiversità (National Center Carabinieri Biodiversity) at the Seeds-to-Foods exhibition in Rome organised by FAO.

- **Representation**

During 2025, ISTA was represented by the Officers, other ECOM Members, the Secretary General, other Secretariat staff or other ISTA members at all major events of partner organisations, international seed trade associations, scientific and other international organisations in the area of seed science and politics. This resulted in closer cooperation with the African Union, AOSA/SCST, OECD, FAO, IPPC, ITPGRFA, NAPPPO, APSA, AfSTA, Euroseeds, UPOV, SAA, IICA and ASTA. There were also contacts with several DAs. The Secretary General is also member of the African Union Working group on seed quality and certification. There is a request of AfSTA for closer cooperation through inviting the Secretary General as observer to their Board Meetings. Reports can be found in STI.

- **Event organisation**

Decision was made by the ECOM to have the 33rd ISTA Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand, which allowed participation especially from representatives of ISTA member countries and distinct economies of Oceania to participate in person.

- **Publications**

ISTA Rules

The updating, formatting, coordination and integration of the different translations and other required maintenance of the source files performed by Vanessa Sutcliffe with support of the Secretary General, Nadine, Andreea, Karen with support from the Rules TCOM as well as the translators in Argentina, France and Germany. The rules were published December 01, 2025, to enable laboratories to access the changes on time.

Seed Testing International (STI)

An editorial team of STI consisted of Andreas, Yoana and Sejal (as the responsible person for STI).

Mailing lists and distribution was organised by Agnes.

The two scheduled issues of STI (no.169 and no. 170) were successfully and timely produced and distributed due to the leadership of Sejal.

Seed Science and Technology (SST)

The Editorial Board headed by Fiona Hay edits SST.

Uploading of Fast-track and the final articles and amending the DOI registrations is implemented by SST typesetter Lucie Eng.

Current Website

Only the Marketing & Communication group at the Secretariat maintains the website upon request on Secretariat staff information depending on their relevant roles.

Newsletters

Newsletters are prepared weekly by the Marketing & Communication group. Different members of the Secretariat staff depending on the subject contribute to these Newsletters. The newsletter became the most important communication tool between the Association, membership and other stakeholders.

- **TCOM**

Nadine Ettl manages the TCOM work with the help of Andreea Pinar, which includes:

The on-going coordination and management of the TCOMs annual cycle including all reports and studies, information updating of the TCOM part of the ISTA website.

Coordination and administration of the Method Validation Programme.

Set-up and coordination of the strategic projects as well as the SH-project (Reference Pest List), which is coordinated by GEVES.

Leading the organisation of the DNA, GMO and SH Proficiency Test rounds and communication with laboratories, data entry and management.

Andreea is coordinating the workshops organisation, registration and management, TCOM Members and handling TCOM Membership Applications, updating TCOM website. In person workshops were started again in 2022. These may in future be combined by online workshops, where appropriate. This included in 2025 also the francophone Quality Assurance Workshop held in Senegal in collaboration with FAO (including full financial reporting to FAO).

Training and maintenance of the TCOM area in Office365 is done by Nadine and Andreea.

- **Accreditation**

Florina Palada manages the accreditation as Head of the Accreditation and Technical Department.

Auditing

Organised, arranged and partly performed by Florina, Branislava and Stella with support of Neelam and Beata, as well as a team of contracted system and technical auditors around the world with ISTA auditors also originating from areas, where ISTA was not present before.

Activities include:

- Pre-accreditation and pre-audit activities related to the interested laboratories/sampling entities
- Initial and re-accreditation audits of applicants and existing accredited laboratories/sampling entities
- Following up of corrective actions

Neelam and Beata provide the Audits administration and Certificate shipment and administration. Neelam and Stella are responsible for the eCertificates.

Beata and Neelam are providing administrative support to the Accreditation and Technical Department; this includes coordinating with the laboratories and the auditors the Audit schedule. Assisting with materials and documentation in preparation for audits. Making travel arrangements for the Auditors.

Organising and conducting a Proficiency Test Programme as well as the Mini-Proficiency Test Programme

Standard PT is under the responsibility of Branislava and Stella, Neelam supports them.

Work includes:

- Obtaining seed for some Proficiency Test rounds
- Managing registration
- Obtaining relevant documents for shipment
- Shipment
- Data entry and analysis
- Reporting

Other activities of the Accreditation and Technical Department

- Organisation of Quality Assurance Workshops (administered by the TCOM group)
- Training of the new system auditor at ISTA Secretariat
- Recruiting and training of contracted system and technical auditors
- Optimisation of the database

Certificates

Two projects are currently running concerning ISTA Certificates.

- eCertificates. After a feasibility project performed by Massey University, Palmerstone North (NZ) and approval of the Budget by the 2020 Ordinary General Meeting. A project was started with MySign to realise the use of electronic Certificates. The Website will play a major role in this project. A beta testing is currently performed by 6 ISTA accredited laboratories. The system was made available to all ISTA accredited laboratories on July 15, 2024. Currently eleven accredited laboratories use the system.
- Interactive Certificates: This project, which enables ISTA laboratories to learn more about ISTA Certificates and their use (how to fill where and what). It is also be used for trainings within ISTA laboratories. The project was completed early 2020 with the help of Branislava and Florina and is continuously updated.

8. Finances of the Association

In January 2026, the ISTA accounts were audited by financial auditors BDO AG, who found them to be in well order. The report of the financial auditors is included after the presentation of the key financial figures.

The total turnover was higher than compared to previous year (+35'594 CHF). This was mainly due to the performance of more Workshops in 2025 (+35'388 CHF) and commissioning more ISTA blank Certificates (+ 101'580 CHF). The number of blank Certificates went up more closely to the budgeted number, but did not reach it, which is still an effect of the price increase beginning of 2024. The greatest difference in income was for the Annual Meeting 2025 compared 2024 (-74'570 CHF), also compared to the budget the income was less than predicted (-84'106 CHF). Where the first difference originates mainly from the fact, that 2024 was the year of the ISTA Centenary celebrations and beside the fact that the 2024 meeting was sponsored more by ISTA stakeholders, whereas 2025 nearly no sponsorship was received. The difference to budget in addition results in the weak US Dollar, which lost against a number of currencies, but especially against the Swiss Franc (as ISTA reporting currency), where the loss was >12.3 %. As the participation fee was fixed in November 2024 in US Dollar based on the currency exchange rate at that time, but payments were received more shortly before the Congress, where the exchange rate was much less favourable.

The financial result shown for the year 2025 is negative. This is mostly due to financial losses (-366'715 CHF) compared to 2024, which is again mainly due to currency exchange losses due to the weak US Dollar influencing the valuation of the assets. The increase in financial income (+10'127 CHF) could not compensate for this loss. The related good news is that due to discipline in expenditure only additional 46'067 CHF had to be taken from the reserves. These are now at 3'655 MCHF.

Some areas to highlight include:

Membership subscription: The decrease of 16'576 CHF compared to previous year was mainly due to more on time payments making use of the 10 % discount. This had also an effect on the audit fees (see below). This actual decrease was less than compared to budgeted (-32'826 CHF).

ISTA Annual Meeting & Congresses: The ISTA Congress was held in Christchurch, New Zealand. This resulted in income of 102'132 CHF and expenditure of 194'511 CHF. Where the expenditure was within the budget (- 1'371 CHF) the income was less (reasons are mentioned above).

ISTA Rules sales: Sales decreased marginally by 7'000 CHF compared to previous year but stays stable around 50'000 CHF.

Accreditation: The reason for the higher income on audits of 11'380 CHF is mainly due to more new ISTA member laboratories being audited for the first time and had to pay the full amount. The amount would have been higher, but an increasing number of laboratories went for on time payments as mentioned for the Membership subscription above. Expenditures decreased by 17'495 CHF, which is due to good planning of audit tours and travel arrangements.

Seed Science and Technology subscriptions: The income from sales and publication fees is stable (-652 CHF) as compared to previous year, which is also due to the Young@ISTA support.

For 2026 a balanced Zero budget is presented with using 204'570 CHF from the reserves, which is mainly due for eCertificates maintenance, which was approved by the OGM 2020 to be financed from the reserves, but will partly come from the cash flow as well, and payments for currently approved projects (approved in prior years) and an approved temporarily increase of staff in 2026 for the Accreditation and Technical Department.

The reserves decreased at end of 2025 by 160'000 CHF to be at 3'655 MCHF, which is described above.

ISTA draft Budget 2026	2024	2025	Budget 2026	Proposed 2027
INCOME				
<i>Subscriptions</i>				
Annual Membership Subscription	1'291'199.02	1'274'743.28	1'286'219.63	1'290'000.00
Accreditation Subscription	185'311.81	185'191.20	193'942.80	190'000.00
Annual Meetings	176'701.90	102'131.75	214'850.00	200'000.00
Technical Committees WS	66'895.77	102'283.98	100'000.00	100'000.00
STI Advertisement	0.00	0.00	1'500.00	1'500.00
	1'720'108.50	1'664'350.21	1'796'512.43	1'781'500.00
<i>Service Centres</i>				
ISTA Rules	51'545.81	44'545.76	50'000.00	50'000.00
Accreditation Audits	691'791.68	703'171.85	655'721.90	650'000.00
Proficiency Test incl. GMO	7'000.00	12'866.72	14'000.00	15'000.00
QA Workshops	46'940.49	48'685.14	40'000.00	40'000.00
Seed Science and Technology	22'814.87	22'162.62	26'400.00	25'000.00
Technical Publications and calibration samples	26'510.35	13'034.38	20'000.00	20'000.00
Certificates	627'600.00	729'180.00	800'000.00	800'000.00
Website	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	1'474'203.20	1'573'646.47	1'606'121.90	1'600'000.00
Losses in receivables	-26'503.00	-34'594.08	-15'642.00	-15'000.00
Total Income	3'167'808.70	3'203'402.60	3'386'992.33	3'366'500.00

ISTA draft Budget 2026	2024	2025	Budget 2026	Proposed 2027
EXPENDITURE				
<i>Direct Costs</i>				
Annual Meetings & Congresses	-250'254.76	-194'511.17	-200'000.00	-200'000.00
Executive Committee+President	-37'508.17	-56'746.02	-55'000.00	-55'000.00
Technical Committees WS and 3K grants	-155'175.49	-155'905.58	-195'950.00	-180'000.00
Seed Testing International	-37'911.41	-34'690.65	-35'000.00	-35'000.00
	-480'849.83	-441'853.42	-485'950.00	-470'000.00
<i>Service Centres</i>				
ISTA Rules	-8'329.70	-8'315.09	-12'000.00	-15'000.00
Accreditation Audits	-422'893.67	-440'389.02	-440'163.27	-425'000.00
Proficiency Test incl. GMO	-54'071.67	-87'531.76	-55'950.00	-50'000.00
QA Workshops	-46'876.64	-40'339.31	-32'500.00	-30'000.00
Seed Science and Technology	-53'501.13	-54'027.47	-64'400.00	-60'000.00
Technical Publications and calibration samples	-15'577.46	-11'636.93	-17'500.00	-20'000.00
Certificates	-135'532.92	-69'808.10	-70'000.00	-75'000.00
Provisions for fluctuations	-100'000.00	160'000.00	204'569.73	39'500.00
	-836'783.19	-552'047.68	-487'943.53	-635'500.00
<i>Personnel expenses</i>				
Salaries	-1'314'902.40	-1'355'878.90	-1'374'204.92	-1'360'000.00
Social Security and insurances	-342'970.70	-344'482.15	-412'261.48	-408'000.00
Other personal expenses incl. Recruitments	-8'556.66	-6'642.71	-5'000.00	-5'000.00
Staff Training	-13'006.29	-11'644.99	-35'000.00	-35'000.00
Secretary General Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	-1'679'436.05	-1'718'648.75	-1'826'466.40	-1'808'000.00
<i>Operating Costs</i>				
Office Costs	-267'514.53	-253'945.91	-267'000.00	-270'000.00
Travel Costs (International Representation)	-57'464.10	-34'963.84	-50'000.00	-50'000.00
Sponsoring Projects (Young@ISTA)	-25'033.87	-24'875.45	-25'000.00	-25'000.00
Marketing Costs	-19'482.48	-22'316.70	-20'000.00	-20'000.00
Website	-62'602.04	-76'005.77	-70'000.00	-70'000.00
Projects	0.00	0.00	-184'632.40	-50'000.00
	-432'097.02	-412'107.67	-616'632.40	-485'000.00
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	-9'100.00	-6'800.00	-5'000.00	-3'000.00
Financial costs	-58'291.48	-425'005.99	-55'000.00	-55'000.00
Financial income	336'366.65	346'493.24	90'000.00	90'000.00
Prior-period costs	-38'114.45	-55'349.80	0.00	0.00
Prior-period income	50'433.33	63'829.07	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	-3'147'872.04	-3'201'491.00	-3'386'992.33	-3'366'500.00
Result	19'936.66	1'911.60	0.00	0.00

2025 YEAR END CLOSING	ACCOUNT 2023	ACCOUNT 2024	ACCOUNT 2025
ASSETS			
<i>Currents Assets</i>			
<i>Cash</i>			
Petty Cash (Accounts 1000,1001,1002)	7'329.79	8'938.65	5'738.35
Postal account (Accounts 1010,1011,1015,1016)	102'829.49	56'320.04	42'228.15
Zürcher Kantonalbank, current account (Account 1020)	1'627'475.44	1'608'358.61	2'396'352.91
Zürcher Kantonalbank, deposit account (Account 1021)	19'487.58	47'256.63	100'103.23
Zürcher Kantonalbank, USD account (Account 1025)	132'171.15	147'590.95	75'043.85
Zürcher Kantonalbank, EUR account (Account 1026)	606'457.82	258'320.63	243'058.08
Zürcher Kantonalbank, EUR account (Account 1030)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zürcher Kantonalbank, GBP account (Account 1031)	64'300.05	55'604.86	35'089.55
Zürcher Kantonalbank, USD asset management account (Account 1055)	71'968.24	119'517.62	147'172.60
Money Market investments (Accounts 1405,1410,1415)	1'000'000.00	1'469'225.00	623'700.00
	3'632'019.56	3'771'132.99	3'668'486.72
<i>Trade receivables</i>			
Membership subscriptions, certificates and publications (Accounts 1100,1111,1112,1113)	112'561.97	44'227.79	40'463.90
Allowance on doubtful accounts (Account 1120)	-15'200.00	-27'700.00	-27'300.00
	97'361.97	16'527.79	13'163.90
<i>Other accounts receivable</i>			
Other accounts receivable (Account 1108,1109,1110,1135,2320)	0.00	0.00	174.25
Withholding tax (Account 1150)	1'644.12	9'212.05	5'329.26
Value added Tax (Account 1155,1156,1157,2055,2057)	23'023.59	21'698.81	15'203.60
	24'667.71	30'910.86	20'707.11
<i>Accrued income and prepaid expenses</i>			
Prepaid expenses (Accounts 1300)	281'574.73	268'561.63	208'278.50
	281'574.73	268'561.63	208'278.50
<i>Fixed assets</i>			
Financial assets (Accounts 1400,1420)	2'421'116.62	2'618'205.41	2'552'292.00
Tangible fixed assets (Accounts 1500,1520)	36'000.00	26'900.00	20'100.00
	2'457'116.62	2'645'105.41	2'572'392.00
	6'492'740.59	6'732'238.68	6'483'028.23

2025 YEAR END CLOSING	ACCOUNT 2023	ACCOUNT 2024	ACCOUNT 2025
LIABILITIES + EQUITY			
<i>Short-term liabilities</i>			
Trade creditors (Account 2000,2001,2002,2005,2006,2007,2008)	-144'068.54	-123'368.63	-50'771.44
Other accounts payable (Accounts 2200,2220,2250,2260,2270,2280,2321)	-7'778.35	-4'914.00	-2'583.20
Advance payments (Accounts 2100,2101,2102,2103,2104,2106,2107,2108,2109,2110,2112)	-1'533'784.64	-1'647'736.98	-1'619'375.76
Accrued expenses (Accounts 2120,2121,2122,2123,2124,2125,2126,2127,2128,2129,2130,2150,2151)	-153'066.24	-182'239.59	-194'406.75
	-1'838'697.77	-1'958'259.20	-1'867'137.15
<i>Long-term liabilities</i>			
Provisions (Account 2910)	-3'715'000.00	-3'815'000.00	-3'655'000.00
	-3'715'000.00	-3'815'000.00	-3'655'000.00
<i>Equity</i>			
Equity (Account 2800)	-937'221.92	-939'042.82	-958'979.48
Profit/Loss (Account 2998)	-1'820.90	-19'936.66	-1'911.60
	-939'042.82	-958'979.48	-960'891.08
	-6'492'740.59	-6'732'238.68	-6'483'028.23

C. Report of the statutory auditor on the limited statutory examination

to the Ordinary General meeting of



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BDO Ltd
Schiffbaustrasse 2
8031 Zurich

Report of the statutory auditor on the limited statutory examination
to the Ordinary General meeting of

ISTA International Seed Testing Association, Wallisellen

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (comprising the balance sheet, operating statement and notes) of ISTA International Seed Testing Association for the financial year ended December 31, 2025.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the executive committee. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of entity personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of entity documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the articles of association.

Zurich, 6 February 2026

BDO Ltd

David Schraner
Auditor in Charge
Licensed Audit Expert

Stefan Brack
Licensed Audit Expert

Enclosure
Financial statements

D. Reports of the Technical Committees

You will find on the following pages the reports of the Technical Committees for the calendar year 2024. These reports give an indication of progress towards achievement of the working programmes approved by the TCOM.

Activity Working Programmes arranged in alphabetical order of Committee:

ATC	Advanced Technologies Committee
BSC	Bulking and Sampling Committee
FSC	Flower Seed Committee
FTS	Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee
GER	Germination Committee
GMO	GMO Committee
MOI	Moisture Committee
NOM	Nomenclature Committee
PUR	Purity Committee
SHC	Seed Health Committee
STA	Statistics Committee
STO	Storage Committee
TEZ	Tetrazolium Committee
VAR	Variety Committee
VIG	Vigour Committee
WS	Wild Species Committee

1. ATC Advanced Technologies Committee

A. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST			
			change comments
1	CHAIR: Bert van Duijn	Netherlands	
2	VICE-CHAIR: Francisco G. Gomes Jr.	Brazil	
3	VICE-CHAR: Ganesh Kumar	USA	
4	Birte Boelt	Denmark	
5	Mailén Ariela Martínez	Argentina	
6	Henry Bruggink	Netherlands	
7	Aurélie Charrier	France	
8	Devaraja Achar	India	
10	Zhujun Zhu	China	
11	Tomoko Sakata	Japan	
12	Sebastian Bopper	Germany	
13	Giovanny Lopez	Netherlands	
14	Victorio Costa	Argentina	From May 2025
15	Kyle Peterson	USA	From May 2025
	Sunmeet Bhatia	New Zealand	Retired May 2025
	Brigitte Hamman	South Africa	Retired May 2025
	Kent Bradford	USA	Retired May 2025
B. PUBLICATIONS			
B1. Publications to accompany the Rules			
Publication title	proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
1 Guideline Advanced Technology Applications for Seed Testing Computer vision	Feb 2025	PUR, GER, VIG, STA, Auditors	Published at: https://www.seedtest.org/api/rm/9B78H3976PGV99K/tcom-p-12-advanced-technology-guide-computer-visio.pdf
B3. Scientific information publications			
Publication title	proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
1 ATC Web-pages			Content to be added continuously
2 Seed identification using machine vision: Machine	2025		Himmelboe, M., Jørgensen, J. R., Gislum, R., & Boelt, B. Computers and Electronics in Agriculture, 231, 109884. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compag.2024.109884

	learning features and model performance.			
3	Understanding seed germination responses to low-dose X-rays: the role of seed quality, variety, and density.	2025		Hamdy, S., Soubigou-Taconnat, L., Dupont, A., Rasti, P., Ducournau, S., Rousseau, D., & Charrier, A. <i>Plant Methods</i> , 21(1), Article 143. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13007-025-01457-7
4	Survival of seed-coated microbial biocontrol agents during seed storage.	2025		Köhl, J., van der Heijden, L., Butterbach, P., Gaidry, T., Haas, L. G., Houwers, I., de Lange, E., Lopez, G. , van Nieuwenhoven, A., & Touceda, M. <i>Biological Control</i> , 207, Article 105809. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2025.105809
5	Chlorophyll fluorescence, oxygen consumption rates and germination of green soybean seeds produced under heat–drought stress.	2025		Martinez, M. A. , Montechiarini, N. H., Gosparini, C. O., Oppedijk, B., & Duijn, A. van. <i>Plant Direct</i> Volume 9 Issue 8 doi:10.1002/pld3.70100
6	Seed Protein Content Estimation with Bench-Top Hyperspectral Imaging and Attentive Convolutional Neural Network Models.	2025		Said, I., Sagan, V., Peterson, K. T., Alifu, H., Maiwulanjiang, A., Stylianou, A., Al Akkad, O., Sarkar, S., & Shakarji, N. A. <i>Sensors (Basel, Switzerland)</i> , 25(2), 303. https://doi.org/10.3390/s25020303
7	Silicon enhances root potassium retention in cucumber under salt stress through promoting sodium exclusion and antioxidant capacity.	2025		Yan, G., Zhao, S., Dong, J., Qiu, H., Li, B., Cao, L., Yuan, T., Zhu, X., Mao, S., Wang, P., Xu, Y., He, Y., Liang, Y., & Zhu, Z. <i>Plant Physiology and Biochemistry</i> , 227, Article 110156. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.plaphy.2025.110156
8	Construction and optimization of quantitative analysis models for pigments in broccoli (<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L. var. <i>italica</i>) based on near-infrared spectroscopy technology.	2025		Zhang, Y., Wu, J., Zhang, H., Shen, Z., Bai, X., Gao, X., Zhu, Q., Huang, Y., Hong, S.-B., Zhu, Z. , He, D., & Zang, Y. <i>Food Chemistry: X</i> , 28, Article 102528. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fochx.2025.102528

9	Mathematical analysis of long-distance polar auxin transport data of pin mutants questions the role of PIN1 as postulated in the chemi-osmotic theory.	2025		Boot, K. J. M., Hille, S. C., Libbenga, K. R., Libbenga-Nijkamp, M., Karami, O., Van Duijn, B. , & Offringa, R. <i>Physiologia Plantarum</i> , 177(2), e70139-n/a. https://doi.org/10.1111/ppl.70139
10	Advanced capabilities of non-invasive assessment of seed quality and growth potential on the example of garden spinach (<i>Spinacia oleracea</i> L.).	2025		Arkhipov M.V., Priyatkin N.S. , Musaev F.B., Jafarov I.G., Potrakhov N.N., Gusakova L.P., Panova G.G. <i>Sel'skokhozyaistvennaya Biologiya [Agricultural Biology]</i> , 2025, Vol. 60, № 1, p. 60-69. doi: 10.15389/agrobiology.2025.1.60eng
11	ISTA Workshop on Insect Detection in Seed Testing	2025		Bert van Duijn , Ruud Barnhoorn, Birte Boelt , Francisco Gomes Jr , Ludivine Soubigou-Taconnat, Philippe Reynaud, Aur�lie Charrier . <i>Seed Testing International</i> vol 170 pages: 76-78.
12	Advanced Technologies Committee	2025		Bert van Duijn , Francisco G Gomes Jr and Ganesh Kumar . <i>Seed Testing International</i> vol 170 pages: 26-27.
13	Curated data-base on literature about X-ray applications on seeds	2025		https://www.zotero.org/groups/5080258/ista-x-ray-in-seed-testing

C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

C1. Training and education workshops

			remarks
workshop subject	proposed	collaboration	update
location	finalisation		progress
1 Workshop on Methods for insect detection in seeds (related to ISTA special project 20-1)	March 4-5, 2025	SHC, France	Successful workshop was held
2 Workshop on Imaging technologies for seed evaluation.	May 2026	Denmark	Planned
3 Workshop Imaging in seed quality	November 2026	Argentina	Planned

	assurance workshop			
C2 Seminars				
				remarks
	Seminar subject	proposed	collaboration	update
	location	finalisation		progress
1	Seminar/interest meeting on Modelling in Seed Testing. Christchurch, New Zealand.	May 8, 2025	Statistics committee	At the ISTA Congress in Christchurch
2	Insects in the ISTA environment. Interactive Forum discussion. Christchurch, New Zealand.	May 8, 2025	Seed Health Committee	At the ISTA Congress in Christchurch
3	The seed journey : from laboratory insights through production to agricultural impact	August 26, 2025		ISTA webinar. Panel and lecture Ganesh Kumar
D. Proficiency Tests				
	Proficiency Test Subject	proposed	collaboration	remarks update progress
		finalisation		

1.

E. QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE				
	subject of question			from
1.				
F. SPECIAL PROJECTS				
	project title / subject			remarks
	collaborating committees	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress
1	Overview of image forming technologies and their application to seeds	Continuous		For new ISTA web pages

2	X-ray seed imaging literature database for ISTA web pages	2025		https://www.zotero.org/groups/5080258/ista_-_x-ray_in_seed_testing
3	Mathematical modelling in seed testing	continuous	Statistics committee, Moisture Committee	Joint Working group established. Focus achieved.
4	Finding new technologies	continuous		ATC members
5	Working group on establishing technical guidelines for ISTA seed image data consortium –.	2025		Team members : Ganesh Kumar; Bert van Duijn ; Brite Boelt; Giovanni Lopez; Victorio Costa; Kyle Peterson. This is an addition to the Image Consortium Initiative.
6	Working group on establishing agreement for ISTA seed image data consortium.	2025	STA, PUR, Ecom, Secretariat Team members: Craig McGill, Andreas Wais, Ganesh Kumar (ATC), Ernest Allen, Sejal Patel, Sergio Pasquini, Bert van Duijn (ATC), Kyle Peterson (ATC)	

2. BSC Bulking and Sampling Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST				
				change comments
1	Chair: Corinne Guimier	France		
2	Vice-Chair: Eddie Goldschagg	South Africa		
3	Vice-Chair: Chandrashekara Bhat	India		
4	Ignacio Aranciaga	Argentina		
5	Gerry Hall	United Kingdom		
6	Qarin Hellner	Sweden		New member
7	David Johnston	USA		
8	Michael Kruse	Germany		
9	Bülent Öztürk	Turkey		
10	José Maurício Pereira	Brazil		
11	Leena Pietilä	Finland		
12	Cza Realubit	The Philippines		
13	Justin Salter	New Zealand		
14	Evans Tembo	Zambia		
15	Sigyn Valgrind	Denmark		New member
	Birte Krogh	Denmark		Resigned 2025
	ECOM Liaison officer: Ignacio Aranciaga	Argentina		
	ECOM Liaison officer: Irena Gera	Poland		
A. RULES DEVELOPMENT				
<u>A1. Introduction of New Methods</u>				
				remarks
	Method name	proposed	collaboration	update
	subject	finalisation		progress
1				
2	Sampling for dust-like species	/	PUR, RUL, STA	First proposal removed in 2022, further consideration – theoretical statistic study needed, lack of data
3	Sampling conditions for issuing OICs when ISTA methods are described only for untreated seeds	/		First draft prepared in 2023: list of questions, to be completed
<u>A2. Introduction of New Species</u>				
				remarks
	Species and test	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress
1				
<u>A3. Introduction of Rules Changes</u>				
				remarks
	Subject	proposed	collaboration	update

		finalisation		progress
1	Number of sublots for vegetable seeds, size of Tomato seeds lots	2025	ECOM-VSI WG	Done: voted at the ISTA meeting 2025 for application in 2026
2	Question on variety name changes on OICs	2027	RUL	Done: official BSC position presented at the ISTA meeting 2025 To be completed by an information in ISTA Rules Chapter 1
3	Clarification of various questions on sampling conditions and rules comprehension	2025		Reorganisation in separate small working groups – see below
4	WG 1: sampling intensity for small containers packed in bigger ones	2026		Done: Rules proposal for vote 2026
5	WG 2: merge 2.5.4.7 and 2.5.3 in a unique paragraph on sample storage	2026		
6	WG 3: sampling from stream	2026		Done: Rules proposal for vote 2026
7	WG 4: Sorghum hybrids, lot and samples sizes	2027		
8	WG 5: very small seed lots, use of dividing technique for sampling	2027		Discussion initiated; in progress
9	WG 6: Use of the Nobbe trier	2028		
10	WG 8: Coated seeds, clarify the different categories	2027	PUR	
B. PUBLICATIONS				
<u>B1. Publications to accompany the Rules</u>				
				remarks
	Publication title	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress
1	Sampling calculator: update in accordance with the ISTA List of stabilised plant names, 8 th edition	2026	Angus Dippenaar	In progress – objective: be available on 01.01.2026
<u>B2. Training publications on specific seed testing topics</u>				
				Remarks
	Publication title	proposed	collaboration	Update
		finalisation		Progress
1	WG 7: Videos on seed sampling: addition of comments	2027		
<u>B3. Scientific information publications</u>				
				remarks
	Publication title	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress
1	/			
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS				
<u>C1. Training and education workshops</u>				

				remarks
	workshop subject	proposed	collaboration	update
	location	finalisation		progress
1	Sampling workshop for tree species, Brazil	2025?	FTC	according to the needs of FTC – no further request yet
2	Sampling workshop	2025	Justin Salter, Sue Cousins	New Zealand, scheduled 12-15 May 2025 – cancelled
3	Workshop on Purity, Other Seed Determination and Moisture Analysis	2025	Bülent Öztürk PUR, MOI	Antalya/Türkiye, 10-14 November 2025, 25 participants
4	Workshop on Quality Assurance and ISTA Accreditation for beginners	2025	Corinne Guimier FAO, ISTA Accreditation Department, DISEM (SN01)	Dakar, Senegal, 18-20 November 2025, 25 participants from francophone countries (held in French)
5	Workshop on Seed Sampling and Quality Assurance in Seed Sampling	2026	Gábor Kokavec	Budapest, Hungary, scheduled 17 to 20 March 2026
6	Workshop on sampling and quality assurance in line with ISTA rules	2026	Bülent Öztürk	Uzbekistan, October 2026
7	APSA-ISTA workshop on seed sampling and quality assurance in seed sampling, Thailand	2026	APSA	
D. Proficiency Tests				
	Proficiency Test Subject	proposed	collaboration	remarks update
		finalisation		progress
1.	n.a.			
E. SPECIAL PROJECTS				
	project title / subject			remarks
	collaborating committees	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress
1	Strategic Initiative Fund Project Proposal Seed Storage after Testing	2028	STO	Done in 2025: contribution to the preparation of the application Contribution to the further work
F. QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE				
	subject of question			from
				country
1	update of the list for herbage maximum seed lot size experiment			Germany
2	automatic sampler redesigned because not conform			Slovak Republic
3	lot with information on containers in different colours (but identical): homogenous or heterogenous?			Uruguay
4	clarification on species under "Solanum sect Lycopersicon" in table 2C			ISTA accreditation department

5	automatic sampler: is the proposed design correct?	Slovak Republic
6	case of submitted samples in multiple containers: is it right to accept them?	France
7	automatic sampler: is the equipment proposed by a supplier conform?	Slovak Republic
8	does a sequential precision divider meet ISTA requirements?	Canada
9	marks of the lot: manual mark authorised or not?	Argentina
10	use of scoops to sample small seed lots of vegetable seeds to avoid virus contamination	USA
11	size of the lot on certificates: number of seeds instead of weight possible?	Denmark
12	presentation of table 2C (- and numbers)	Germany
13	sampling in sampling units (small containers)	New Zealand
14	weight of initial lot and subplot on OIC	USA
15	sampling seed foils, cans and bags at the time of packing process	France
16	is the NAL training appropriate for ISTA samplers? are the ISTA Rules for sampling the same than AOSA rules?	the Netherlands
17	change the variety name for a portion of the seed lot	New Zealand
18	"Containers 30g x 800, 10g x 1000) all packed in the same size containers" - is it heterogeneous?	ISTA accreditation department
19	small packets in bigger boxes, consider the boxes as the seed lot containers with the seed lot identification (different from the packets identification)	ISTA accreditation department
20	check sampling for samplers geographically distant	USA
21	is it possible to test samples done in another country?	United Kingdom
22	containers of the seed lot with different quality of seeds	S.C.T. of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu
23	new label on a seed lot: is it possible to change the OIC?	New Zealand
24	when use the mention "submitted sample was not according the ISTA rules" on OIC? inconsistencies between Rules chapters	the Netherlands
25	extension to coated seeds: need to re-test the automatic samplers?	ISTA auditor
26	Nobbe triers: length and position of the opening	Germany
27	sampling seed lot of 15 containers, if the composite sample is not big enough after a first sampling in each bag	Thailand
28	possibility to use the results obtained for an OECD certificate in an ISTA accredited laboratory to edit an OIC?	Greece

29	explain why the purity working weights of 2 Vigna species are very different, although the TSW seems similar	ISTA auditor
30	. encrusted seed: what is correct to select in the App? . seal of the lot identified as "Sticker", but in fact the paper bag is sewed and the official label is there fixed at the sewing time	ISTA auditor
31	possibility to edit an OIC for a lot if repacking of the lot in 2 different types of containers	Thailand
32	. smallest submitted sample for tests on expensive seeds . use of moisture-proof containers for germination, viability and moisture tests (2.5.1.6)	Sweden
33	obtaining the submitted sample (and duplicate) from the composite sample after preparation of moisture sample; practical videos	Bangladesh
34	interpretation of word "required" in 2.5.4.5 / sample weight if no OSD needed	USA
35	2 samples from respectively 50kg and 500kg of the same lot for 2 certificates with the same seed lot number; and can they be considered as duplicate samples	Germany
36	clarification on Submitted and Working Sample Preparation Using Seed Divider	Bangladesh
37	OIC for a subplot less than 20% of the original seed lot (Z. mays)	South Africa
38	editorial corrections needed in the spreadsheet Seed Testing Mixtures	Canada
39	does the automatic sampler comply with ISTA requirements?	Türkiye
40	species name: mention of synonym on OIC	Australia
41	seed lot relabelling (under supervision of the sampler) and new OIC with the new lot number	Uruguay
42	use of sampling calculator for encrusted seeds, and difference in sampling intensity between treated seeds and coated seeds in same containers	Italy
43	spiral sampling stick: confirm it is OK, access to the sampling calculator	the Netherlands
44	triers for sampling seeds in jumbo bags	ISTA Secretariat
45	have the purity working sample and the OSD working sample from the submitted sample	Bangladesh
46	2 models of rifle dividers with attached side dumpers: need of annual check?	USA
47	questions regarding automatic samplers (including ISTA requirements, documentation)	Italy, through ISTA Secretariat

48	update sampling calculator with 2026 version of ISTA Rules	South Africa
49	change of identification of the seed lots authorised? How?	ISTA auditors
50	size of the duplicate sample obtained from the same composite sample than the submitted sample	Bangladesh
51	have 2 OICs for the same seed lot, one with Pu/OSD/Ge, and one for Moisture test, from 2 different laboratories	ISTA Secretariat (from Austria)

3. FSC Flower Seed Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST			
		Country	change comments
1	Sarah Dammen (Chair)	USA	New chair
2	Meriam Dekalo Karen (Vice Chair)	Israel	New vice-chair
3	Rachael Davies	United Kingdom	
4	Sylvie Ducournau	France	
5	Erik van Egmond	Netherlands	
6	Stefanie Kramer	Germany	
7	Shizka Takeuchi	Japan	
8	Lucele Pretorius	South Africa	
9	Zita Ripka	Hungary	Left committee due to retirement
10	Maria Marin	Croatia	
11	Alessandra Barbante	Italy	
A. RULES DEVELOPMENT			
<u>A1. Introduction of New Methods</u>			
	Method name	proposed	collaboration remarks update
	subject	finalisation	progress
1	Add 25C to rules for Begonia spp.		(Shizka Takeuchi)
<u>A2. Introduction of New Species</u>			
	Species and test	proposed	collaboration remarks update
		finalisation	progress

<u>A3. Introduction of Rules Changes</u>				
Subject		proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
1	Sample size for flower species (Table 2A part 3)	On-going	BSC	Data collection in progress. Not easy. (R. Zecchinelli)
2	Clarification about OSD for species listed in Table 2A, part 3	2020	BSC	To be started (R. Zecchinelli)
B. PUBLICATIONS				
<u>B1. Publications to accompany the Rules</u>				
Publication title		proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
<u>B2. Training publications on specific seed testing topics</u>				
Publication title		proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
1	Collaboration in the project of the website TSWS (Testing Seeds of Wild Species): wild flower species		WS	In progress (R. Davies)
2	ISTA Handbook on Flower Seed Testing	2024	GER	Evaluate pages that are in progress and what is needed to complete these pages. (Sylvie Ducournau and Sarah Dammen)
<u>B3. Scientific information publications</u>				
Publication title		proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS				
<u>C1. Training and education workshops</u>				
workshop subject		proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
location		proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
<u>C2. Seminars</u>				
Seminar subject		proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
location		proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
D. Proficiency Tests				
Proficiency Test Subject		proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
1	ISTA PT Programme 2022/25	2023	PTC	Matthiola longipetala GER

F. SPECIAL PROJECTS				
project title / subject	proposed	collaboration	remarks	update
collaborating committees	finalisation		progress	
1	Participation in the preparation of the exercise on seed mixture (distribute with PT samples)	2023-25	PUR -PTC	Ongoing (S. Takeuchi)
2	Collaboration with AOSA: comparison of species listed in AOSA and ISTA Rules	2024	AOSA	Comparison was made on Germination and purity rules of ISTA and AOSA. (S. Dammen)
3	Collection of information about Flower seed Testing by ISTA laboratories	2024		To be started (Alessandra Barbante)
4	Inventory of TZ methods used by the laboratory for flower species	2022	TEZ	To be started (S. Kramer, TBD)

4. FTS Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee

This report was prepared by the committee chair

Committee web-link: <https://www.seedtest.org/en/technical-committees/forest-tree-shrub-seed-committee.html>

Brief Overview:

Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee (FTSCom) is currently composed by members from different regions of South and North America, Europe, Africa and India. The activities of the referred committee are related to the definition, uniformization and standartization of tests for the quality evaluation of forest and shrub seeds which show proper characteristics (supply of seeds, seed morphology, etc). These activities are in agreement with the main mission of ISTA that is the “Uniformity in seed quality evaluation worldwide”. It is important to emphasize the collaboration of FTSCom with other ISTA committees such Germination and Statistics Committees and also the participation of FTSCom members in important organizations such as OECD, ISF and IUFRO in the area of forest seed science, technology and commercial issues.

Highlights of the Year (1 January – 31 December):

The following activities were conducted:

- 1) *Validation of Khaya grandifoliola* germination test as a case study for ISTA validation methodology review. We are working with three different provenances and in 2025 it was expected to have seeds for two provenances. There was no seed production of one of them and we worked only the provenance of Pará State. The work has been conducted by three laboratories.
- 2) Review of Chapter 13: a working group (WG) was formed with some members of ISTA (Elisa Vieira, Sergio Pasquini, Geângelo Calvi from FTSCom and Ignacio Aranciaga and Erik van Egmond from Gcom) and professionals from seed companies and testing laboratories like Frikkie Marais from Sakata Seeds in South Africa and Kim Beliveau from the Australian Seed Laboratory. The chapter text is under the first review. The work for the definition of a novel Table 13 was made first by Elisa Vieira with the definition of a methodology that will be passed to the WG.
- 3) Organization and arrangement of the workshop of tree seed germination and tetrazolium test with the host laboratory in Ireland.
- 4) Survey about forest and shrub seed health, conducted with the Seed Health committee, was made. It was sent to the ISTA accredited laboratories, OECD Forest Plant Scheme and FTS-TAS group associates, the answers were received and are being analyzed.

The cited activities are in accordance to the ISTA's missions in terms of methods standardization and knowledge spread related to forest and shrub seeds. It is important to emphasize that the global food production is directly associated to forest maintenance and reforestation and their effects in climate change. In this way there is a global effort to plant trees, which has been necessary to have seeds in both quantity and quality.

5. GER Germination Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST			
			change comments
1	CHAIR: David Johnston	United States of America	
2	Vice-CHAIR: Gillian Musgrove	United Kingdom	
3	VICE-CHAIR: Erik van Egmond	Netherlands	
4	Ignacio Aranciaga	Argentina	
5	Janek Bartel	Canada	
6	Sarah Dammen	United States of America	
7	Gillian Durrant	United Kingdom	Resigned 31 DEC 2025 – Will be seeking a replacement in 2026
8	Meriam Dekalo-Keren	Israel	
9	Sylvie Ducournau	France	
10	Lesly Gonzalez	Chile	
11	Aidin Hamidi	Iran	
12	Andrea Jonitz	Germany	
13	Augusto Martinelli	Argentina	
14	Takayuki Okuda	Japan	
15	Elena Perri	Italy	
16	Dot Vittrup Pedersen	Denmark	
17	Melissa Phillips	United States of America	
	Ruel Gesmundo	Philippines	ECOM Liaison Officer
	Irena Gera	Poland	ECOM Liaison Officer

A. RULES DEVELOPMENT				
A1. Introduction of New Methods				
	Method name subject	proposed finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
1	Consider more efficient methods to break sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>) seed dormancy	2025		Update: Rule proposal submitted by GER TCOM. Preliminary work reported by Sylvie Ducournau at ISTA Annual Meeting, Cambridge 2024. A Method Validation Study carried out in September/October 2024 using Ethrel as a dormancy breaking treatment led by Audrey Dupont. Method validation study report completed.
2	Addition of 20°C for <i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	2026	Netherlands Industry/ Secretariat	Update: Not started. Erik van Egmond is currently working on a Test Plan. Method Validation Study to be carried out in 2026.
3	Reduction in the number of days for germination testing of <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> , <i>A. stolonifera</i> , and <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	2026	STAT	Update: Ongoing Dot Vittrup Pedersen has preliminary data suggesting the germination test period could be reduced. Method Validation Study may follow after discussion with the Statistics Committee.
4	Add BP as an additional test method for <i>Lolium spp.</i>	2027	STAT	Ruojing Wang of CFIA will lead the Method Validation Study.
5	Validate adding 25C as a test temperture option for <i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	2027		Melissa Phillips will be the WG Leader for this validation study.
A2. Introduction of New Species				
	Species and test	proposed Finalisation	collaboration	remarks update progress
1	Introduction of a germination method for Dwarf Saltwort (<i>Salicornia bigelovii</i> Torr. and <i>Salicornia persicum</i>)	2027	STA, BSC, PUR	Update: Ongoing Leader: Aidin Hamidi. Preliminary study examining suitable germination methods completed. Further information to be provided. May have difficulty in getting seed lots.
2	Introduction of a germination method for Saatar (<i>Zataria multiflora</i> Boiss.) and Camelthorn (<i>Alhagi camelorum</i> F.).	2027	STA, BSC, PUR	Update: Ongoing Leader: Aidin Hamidi. This study is ongoing. Further information to be provided. A Method Validation Study may start in 2026. Aidin has prepared 6 Iranian native Camelthorn ecotypes seed

				samples for sending to ISTA for method validation testing.
3	Introduction of <i>Moringa oleifera</i>	2026	BSC, PUR, TZ, MOI, NZ Lab	Update: Heterogeneity testing of the validation study samples has been completed. This data will be sent to the STAT TCOM for review to determine the suitability of the seed lots for this study. Leader: Gillian Musgrove Method Validation Study seed for germination to be sent to Sue Cousins for heterogeneity testing and preparation of sample for dispatching to laboratories. Delayed due to issues with sending seed from origin.
4	Introduction of <i>Solanum torvum</i>	2026	STAT, BSC PUR	Update: On going. Validation study samples are currently being tested. Leader: Erik van Egmond and Takayuki Okuda. A Method Validation Study Test Plan has been prepared and once participants confirmed, will be sent to Technical Reviewers.
5	Introduction of <i>Guzotia abyssinica</i>	2026	STAT, BSC PUR	Update: Not started. Leader: Andrea Jonitz. Preliminary work looking at introducing this as a new species.
A3. Introduction of Rules Changes				
	Subject	proposed Finalisation	collaboration	update progress
1	5.6.2.3 second paragraph change "should" to "must"	2026		Update: Rule proposal submitted by GER TCOM. 5.6.2.3 Temperature ... Where alternating temperatures are indicated, the lower temperature <u>should must</u> be maintained for 16 h and the higher for 8 h....
2	5.7.e. Clarify wording on how to report test results when a retest has been conducted.	2026		Update: Rule proposal submitted by GER TCOM. TCOM discussions are ongoing on developing wording to clarify <u>5.7.e.</u>
3	5.11 Table 5B Add five new tolerance tables for determining if replicates are within tolerance for replicates of 50 seeds and 25 seeds.	2026	STAT	Update: Rule proposal submitted by GER TCOM. Add the following tolerance tables: Table 5B Part 4. Four reps of 50 seeds; Table 5B Part 5. eight reps of 50 seeds; Table 5B Part 6. four reps of 25 seeds; Table 5B Part 7. Eight reps of 25 seeds; Table 5B Part 8 sixteen reps of 25 seeds.

4	5.6.3.1 Add precautionary statement for the possible test side effects when using potassium nitrate solution for some species.	2026		Update: Rule proposal submitted by GER TCOM
5	Table 5A Address the scientific name change/elimination for Brassica peruviana. This species is now included in B. rapa and the use of KNO3.	2026	Rules	Update: Rule proposal submitted by GER TCOM
6	5.6.3.3 To add drying temperature for the presoaking procedure to harmonize with the drying temperature for the prewashing procedure.	2026	Rules	Update: Rule proposal submitted by GER TCOM
7	Table 5A Part1 Amend drying temperature information related to drying information in 5.6.3.3 to harmonize.	2026	Rules	Update: Rule proposal submitted by GER TCOM
8	5.4.2 and 5.4.5 End the requirement to determine the water holding capacity (WHC) of germination test media. Make this procedure optional for laboratories that do not use the WHC information. All other specification determinations required in 5.4.2 and 5.4.5 would continue to be checked by laboratories.		Rules	Update: Rule proposal <u>withdrawn</u> by GER TCOM. There was even support by GER TCOM members to continue and to discontinue this requirement. A WG will be formed in 2026 to reexamine the requirement for laboratories to determine the WHC of germination test media, if the laboratory does not use this information to determine how much moisture to apply to their testing media. If laboratories do not use the WHC information, it is a waste of resources (e.g., time, media) and can be costly and impose a burden on the staff. A survey will be sent to all laboratories that conduct germination testing to receive feedback on this issue. The GER TCOM requests that the ECOM discuss and address this issue of laboratories being required to determine and record information that they do not use.
<u>B2. Training publications on specific seed testing topics</u>				
			remarks	
Publication title				proposed

		Finalisation		progress
1	SEH Revision	2026		Update: Gillian Musgrove was appointed the WG Leader and revisions are underway. Ongoing revisions.
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS				
<u>C1. Training and education workshops</u>				
workshop subject				proposed
	location	finalisation		progress
1	ISTA Workshop Purity, Germination and Moisture Committee - Iran	TBD	PUR MOI	Update: On hold. May need to consider an online workshop.
2	ISTA Workshop Purity & Germination – Kyiv, Ukraine	TBD	PUR	Update: On hold.
3	ISTA Workshop on Germination and Vigour; Angers, France	December 1-5, 2025	VIG	Update: Completed ISTA Workshop on Germination and Vigour - Workshops and Webinars - International Seed Testing Association
4	ISTA Workshop on Germination and Tetrazolium Oudtshoorn, West Cape South Africa	October 27 – 29, 2026	TEZ	Update: Trainers are GER – Erik van Egmond, David Johnston; TEZ – Sergio Pasquini
D. PROFICIENCY TESTS				
	Proficiency test subject	finalisation	collaboration	update
PT information				
1	PT26-1 <i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	2026	PTC	
2	PT26-2 <i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	2026	PTC	
3	PT26-3 <i>Lolium perenne</i>	2026	PTC	
4	PT27-1 <i>Pisum sativum</i>	2027	PTC	
5	PT27-1 <i>Salvia sp.</i>	2027	PTC	
6	PT27-2 <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	2027	PTC	
7	PT27-3 <i>Helianthus annuus</i>	2027	PTC	
8	PT27-3 <i>Glycine max</i>	2027	PTC	

9	PT28-1 <i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>	2028	PTC	
10	PT28-1 <i>Moringa sp.</i>	2028	PTC	
11	PT28-2 <i>Trifolium repens</i>	2028	PTC	
12	PT28-3 <i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	2028	PTC	
13	PT28-3 <i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	2028	PTC	
E. SPECIAL PROJECTS				
	project title / subject		remarks	
collaborating committees				proposed
		finalisation		progress
1	Frequently Asked Questions; Add a FAQ section to the GER TCOM webpage	2026		<p>Update: WG has complied and sorted several questions and the TCOM members will be selecting which questions to use for the FAQ section.</p> <p>Leader: Lesly Gonzalez; FAQ Project initiated 26 AUG 2025, Lesly will assemble WG members and collect FAQs for review by the GER TCOM members; purpose is to assist with answering germination related questions</p>
2	Acid Scarification Survey: Conduct a laboratory survey regarding the use of acid scarification	2026		<p>Update: Survey was sent to all ISTA laboratories that conduct germination testing. There were 17 responses. The information is being reviewed to determine appropriate actions.</p> <p>Leader: David Johnston; survey will be conducted to gather information regarding how this dormancy breaking method is being applied and for which species; if 400 seeds or >400 seeds are being scarified at a time; how users determine if seeds are being damaged; are additional instructions needed in the ISTA Rules</p>
F. QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE				
	Subject of question			Country
1	Images in ISTA Handbook on Seedling Evaluation			Denmark
2	Presoaking of <i>Beta vulgaris</i> method - drying time			France
3	Prechilling before a germination test and age of seed			Sweden
4	Germination methods for <i>Coriandrum sativum</i>			Mauritis
5	Disinfection methods for <i>Arachis hypogaea</i>			Sweden

6	Reporting the number of days on an OIC/BIC			Australia
7	Controlling moisture loss in the germination test			Pakistan
8	Temperature and media used in the germination test			Pakistan
9	Calculating water holding capacity			Pakistan
10	Progress of adding tolerance tables for replicates less than 100 seeds			France
11	Seedling Evaluation Group information for Helianthus, Glycine and Spinacia			Switzerland
12	Estimated tissue in Lactuca germination evaluation and images in SEH			Switzerland
13	Evaluation of seeds (hard or fresh) due to seeds appearing hard due to physical and physiological constraints			Brazil
14	Counting normal seedlings, abnormal seedlings and non-germinated seeds during germination testing			Switzerland
15	Alternating temperatures regime requirements– low temperature 16 hours and high temperature 8 hours			Austria
16	Reporting presaking on an OIC			Switzerland
17	Pistacia (Pistachio) germination methods			Uganda
18	Retesting procedures			Uruguay
19	Tolerances between replicates and between tests			USA
20	Acceptable thresholds for water retention capacity testing on growing media for germination testing			USA
21	Evaluation of Lactuca seedlings			France
22	Temperature monitoring of equipment			Canada

23	Phyosanitary/OIC requirements for low volume seed lot			South Africa
24	Clarification on ISTA seedling evaluation after the different counts			Ukraine
25	Tolerances in ISTA Rules, Toolboxes and Handbooks			South Africa
26	Tolerances and combining replicate results			New Zealand
27	Acid scarification procedure			Argentina
28	Germination methods for <i>Coffea arabica</i>			Iran
29	Germination methods for <i>Rhinanthus minor</i>			United Kingdom
30	Seedling cotyledon evaluations for <i>Beta vulgaris</i>			Germany
31	Germination testing of <i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>			Argentina
33	Properly reporting PP on the OIC when PP is not listed in Table 5A for the species tested			Ireland
34	Can there be fresh dormant seeds in <i>Zea mays</i>			Chile
35	Checking for mechanical damage in <i>Medicago sativa</i>			Argentina

6. GMO Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST			
		Country	
1	CHAIR: Enrico Noli	Italy	
2	VICE-CHAIR: René Mathis	France	
3	Laura Bowden	UK	
4	Florence Goubet	Belgium	
5	Tajinder Grewal	Canada	
6	Andrea Jonitz	Germany	
7	Beni Kaufmann	United States	
8	Jean-Louis Laffont	France	
9	Benoit Maes	Belgium	
10	Dwarkesh Parihar	India	
11	Elena Perri	Italy	
12	Kirk Remund	United States	
13	Ana Laura Vicario	Argentina	
14	Bruno Zaccomer	France	
A. RULES DEVELOPMENT			
<u>A1. Introduction of New Methods</u>			
<u>A2. Introduction of New Species</u>			
<u>A3. Introduction of Rules Changes</u>			
	Subject	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date:
	<i>No Rules proposals/amendments this year</i>	-	-
B. PUBLICATIONS			
<u>B1. Publications to accompany the Rules</u>			
	Publication title	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date:
	GMO Testing Handbook (R. Mathis and E. Noli WG Leads). Further progress made in Chapter 6 and related documents. Collaboration with STA and VAR TCom and Accreditation and Quality Management Team at the Secretariat.	By end of 2026	Draft January 2026
<u>B2 Training publications on specific seed testing topic</u>			
	Publication title	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date:
	<i>No training publications in 2025</i>	-	--
<u>B3. Scientific information publications</u>			
	Publication title	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date:
	<i>Work in progress on "Split-sample group test: estimation" publication describing a statistical tool, developed by STA Com, to be used for estimating GMO presence by group testing applied to small populations, such as in PTs.</i> <i>Work in progress on "GMO testing: determining maximum group size for DNA based tests", publication describing a statistical tool, developed by STA Com, for defining the</i>	2026	January 2026

<i>max number of seeds in group for ensuring the detection of a single trait seed.</i>		
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS		
<u>C1. Training and education workshops</u>		
Workshop subject and location	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date:
<i>No workshops organised in 2025</i>	-	--
<u>C2. Seminars and education workshops</u>		
Seminar subject and location	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date:
1 <i>No seminars/webinars organised in 2025</i>	-	-
D. Proficiency Tests		
Proficiency Test Subject	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date:
<i>PT24 – Zea mays We collaborated with the Seed Industry, the TCom Coordinator, the STA TCom and a newly contracted preparation laboratory (Intertek, Sweden). Samples were shipped to 33 participants. All parties involved made a significant organisational effort to ensure that the required documentation for each destination was available. Laboratories submitted their results by October, and the Secretariat sent back preliminary results in December. Data evaluation and rating are underway, with final results expected by March. PT25 – Brassica napus or Gossypium hirsutum - in early stages of preparation</i>	March 2026	January 2026
E. Questions to the Committee - Since date of last report		
Question subject	Date	From (Country)
- Clarification on ISTA accreditation for variety testing vs GMO testing (through Acc. Dept.)	11/04/25	-
- Participant to PT 24 requested clarification needed on the information to be reported on the exercise certificate	5/9/25	FR
- From food industry information requested on the ISTA GMO PT program (which sample material, testing plan and technology, levels)	12/01/26	CA
F. SPECIAL PROJECTS		
project title / subject and collaborating committees	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date:
<i>The List of Standard Terms in GMO Testing was adopted in the accreditation database at the Secretariat in 2024. The list has not being updated since, and new events have been commercialised. The committee must define a procedure and responsibilities for the maintenance of the database.</i>	2026	January 2026
<i>Revision of document "Performance Data Evaluation for the assessment of presence and estimation of level of seed with specified traits in seed lots" (PDE-AP)</i>	completed	January 2026
<i>Revision of document "Performance Data Evaluation for Specified Trait Purity" (PDE-TP) under way following the scheme of PDE-AP.</i>	2026	January 2026
<i>Discussion started with VAR Com regarding aspects related to testing for variety or species identification based on specific conventional traits vs testing for new biotechnological traits (as with NGTs). After a meeting between the chairs and vice chairs of the two Committees, a short note was written to list the common topics and agree to communicate and collaborate on it to avoid redundancy.</i>	-	January 2026

7. MOI Seed Moisture Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST				
				change comments
1	Chair: Axel Goeritz	Germany		Chair since 2020, Member since 2015
2	Vice-Chair: Tanja Petrovic	Serbia		Vice chair since 2021, Member since 2019
3	Vice-Chair: Daniela Villa	Italy		Vice chair since 2025, Member since 2022
4	Sergio Pasquini	Italy		Liasion officer since 2022; Member since 2007
5	Gerarda de Boer-Raatgever	Netherlands		Member since 2007
	Susan Alvarez	United States		Member since 2015, left in 2025
6	Baymolo Goma	Zambia		Member since 2015
7	Wen-Ju Yang	Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan		Member since 2015
8	Celine Herbert	France		Member since 2016
9	Selma Kurt	Turkey		Member since 2019
	Ramesh D M	India		Member since 2020, left in 2025
10	Fiona Hay	Denmark		Member since 2020
	Brady Carter	United States		Member since 2021, left in 2025
11	Chandrashekara Bhat	India		Member since 2022
12	Ainara Fernandez	Ireland		Member since 2023
A. RULES DEVELOPMENT				
<u>A1. Introduction of New Methods</u>				
				remarks
	Method name	proposed	collaboration	update
	subject	finalisation		progress
1	Use of equilibrium Relative Humidity (eRH) as an alternative method for the determination of seed moisture status	2026	FTS, STA	A draft of the Rules related to water activity testing of seeds has been shared for comment. Tests on use of water activity for coated seeds is ongoing. Results to data suggest that for film-coated seeds, measuring the water activity of the sowing unit gives a reliable estimate of the water activity of the seed; the same cannot be said for pelleted seeds (Vijayan et al., 2025).
<u>A2. Introduction of New Species</u>				
				remarks
	Species and test	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress

1	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> oven method	2026	STA	The validation study has been conducted, 9 labs participated and publication will follow soon.
2	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> oven method	2026	STA	Preliminary study analysis completed. Main study is planned involving 8 labs. Technical reviewers are currently asked to give feedback to proceed.
A3. Introduction of Rules Changes				
				remarks
	Subject	proposed finalisation	collaboration	update progress
1	Checking the need for grinding of small species with hard seeds - <i>Medicago sativa</i> , <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i> , <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> , <i>Trifolium pratense</i> , <i>Trifolium repens</i> ,	2025	STA	This work has not yet conducted due to staffing issues but is planned to progress as soon as volunteers are available.
2	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	2023	STA	Goal is to introduce the high temp. oven method for H. in the rules. The results of a comparison between two labs were presented in Cairo 2022. The influence of TSW will be checked in more labs, a proposal for a comparative test is currently being prepared. This project is planned to progress as soon as volunteers are available.
3	Review 9.3 Determination of moisture content by moisture meters	2026	ISTA labs accredited to issue OIC and BIC with moisture meters	This resp. project group has been reorganized.
B. PUBLICATIONS				
B1. Publications to accompany the Rules				
				remarks
	Publication title	proposed finalisation	collaboration	update progress
1	Review and update Handbook on Moisture Determination	2026	Secretariat	Planned changes on moisture calculator and calibration of moisture meters will influence the handbook , so this project comes afterwards.
B3. Scientific information publications				
				remarks
	Publication title	proposed finalisation	collaboration	update progress

1	Extension of the Excel Moisture calculator on the homepage regarding routine tests and QM	2026	STA	Work is in progress.
2				
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS				
<u>C1. Training and education workshops</u>				
				remarks
	workshop subject	proposed	collaboration	update
	location	finalisation		progress
1	PUR/MOI workshop has been conducted in Türkiye Antalya, hosted by Yüksel Tohum Seed Laboratory	11/2025	PUR	Has been conducted with 25 participants on three species: <i>Lolium sp.</i> , <i>Triticum aestivum subsp. aestivum</i> and <i>Cicer arietinum</i> . Theoretical knowledge was followed by practical application on the species, allowing for the enhancement and experimentation of knowledge on the tests.
D. PROFICIENCY TESTS				
	Proficiency test subject	proposed	collaboration	update
	location	finalisation		progress
1				
E. QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE				
	subject of question	Month		from country
1	If a device is used longer than 6 years than the initial validation must be stored longer than 6 years. Does the calibration of moisture meters has to be updated according to the new version of the Accreditation standard? Answer: In 9.3.1.3 (rules) is stated, that the calibration must be done at least every year. The „initial approval“ of a moisture meter has to be done at least once a year.	1-2025		CH
2	How is the term “moisture-proof containers which contain as little air as possible” to be interpreted? Answer: The surrounding air in the bag has no influence on the moisture content. So the term above should be seen as a helpful advice, not to disturb the bag while transportation if there is too much air inside.			
Remark: Many questions have been answered on a bilateral basis and are not meant to be published.				

- New project
- New proposed finalisation date

8. NOM Nomenclature Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST			
	project title / subject	collaborating committees	remarks
			change comments
1	CHAIR: Melanie Schori	USA	
2	VICE-CHAIR: Ernest Allen	USA	
	Susan Alvarez	United States	Retired, remove from list
3	Michel Chauvet	France	
4	Axel Diederichsen	Canada	
	Carol Elliott	New Zealand	Withdrew, remove from list
5	Marco Hoffman	Netherlands	
6	Deborah Meyer	USA	
7	Romina Rodriguez	Argentina	
8	Diogo Tobolski	France	
9	Sigyn Valgrind	Denmark	
10	Mauro Vaccarella	Italy	
11	John Wiersema	USA	
F. SPECIAL PROJECTS			
	project title / subject	collaborating committees	remarks
		proposed	update
		collaboration	update
		finalisation	progress
	Updates to ISTA Stabilised List for 8 th edition		The final draft of the 8 th edition of the List of Stabilised Plant Names is complete and will be adopted in 2026.
	Scientific Names Database (NOM, PUR, BSC, FSC, GER, SHC, FTS, WSC)		Application submitted for Strategic Initiative programme to create database for scientific names used in ISTA publications.
E. QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE			
	subject of question	date	from

			country
1	<i>Solanum</i> sect. <i>Lycopersicon</i> hybrids	January	Switzerland
2	<i>Pennisetum</i> vs. <i>Cenchrus</i>	January	Switzerland
3	OECD updates	February	United Kingdom
4	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> in Stabilised List	February	Canada
5	<i>Sorghum</i> hybrid name	February	Luxembourg
6	Formatting in ISTA Stabilised List	March	France
7	Formatting in ISTA Stabilised List	April	Switzerland
8	<i>Sorghum</i> hybrid name	April	USA
9	OECD updates	April	United Kingdom
10	<i>Urochloa</i> name changes in ISTA Stabilised List	April	Brazil
11	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> in ISTA Stabilised List	April	United States
12	<i>Brassica perviridis</i> in ISTA Stabilised List	April	France
13	Changes to ISTA Stabilised List	May	USA
14	Use of sp. vs. spp.	May	Argentina
15	Names for wild species protocols	May	USA
16	<i>Eucalyptus</i> vs. <i>Corymbia</i> in ISTA Stabilised List	July	USA
17	Excel file of ISTA Stabilised List	August	Canada

18	Updates to Universal List	September		Canada
19	Use of "taxon" in Rule 1.4.1c	October		USA
	New project			
	New proposed finalisation date			

9. PUR Purity Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST (2025)			
	Members	Country	Member since
1	CHAIR: Andrea Jonitz	Germany	2010
2	VICE-CHAIR: Sue Cousins	New Zealand	2017
3	VICE-CHAIR: Shankara Naika	Netherlands	2022
4	Augusto Martinelli	Argentina	2007
5	Aurelie Charrier	France	2018
6	Axel Goeritz	Germany	2017
7	Deborah Meyer	USA	1995
8	Dot Vittrup Pedersen	Denmark	2013
9	Maria Duter	New Zealand	2011
10	Selma Kurt	Turkey	2016
11	E. (Erik) van Egmond	Netherlands	2019
12	Sumaia Mahmuda	Bangladesh	2021
13	Tauhid Parvez (resigned October 2025) 2025	Canada	2022
14	Wang Ruoqing	Canada	2009
A. RULES DEVELOPMENT			

<u>A1. Introduction of New Methods</u>				
	Method name	Proposed/ finalisation	collaboration	Remarks/ update/ progress
1	Clarification and revision based on demands for Chapters 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 14, 16, and 18	Standing order	RUL, BSC STA ATC	
2	Blower Calibration	Discussion, new approach		progress
<u>A2. Introduction of New Species</u>				
	Species and test	Proposed/ finalisation	collaboration	remarks /update /progress

<u>A3. Introduction of Rules Changes</u>				
	Subject	Proposed /finalisation	collaboration	Remarks/ update /progress
1	Revision of Chapter 4.1			Submitted for 2026 voting
2	Revision PSD 36	Proposed		Submitted for 2026 voting
3	Soil and other impurity component test	further discussion needed		In progress
4	Chapter 11 revision	discussion		In progress
5	Chapter 16 revision	discussion		In progress

B. PUBLICATIONS

<u>B1. Publications to accompany the Rules</u>				
	Publication title	Proposed /finalisation	collaboration	Remarks/ update/ progress
1	PSD Handbook Revision	In the work plan	ISTA Secretariate	In progress (>>2028)

2	ISTA Purity workshop Uruguay	Published		STI Oct. 2025
3	ISTA PUR presentation	Published		STI Oct. 2025
4	ISTA PUR presentation new Chair	Published		STI Oct. 2025
<u>B2. Training publications on specific seed testing topics</u>				
	Publication title	Proposed/finalisation	Collaboration	Remarks/ update/ progress
1	Training materials for seed ID on the ISTA universal list (project 20-2)	Draft finalised		Publication in progress
2	Publish an inventory of references of Seed ID	Changed to "Zotero"	ISTA Secretariat	maintenance
3	Publish FAQ in ISTA website to the PUR committee	Is online	ISTA Secretariat	maintenance
4	Standardization on training materials used in ISTA purity workshop	In progress		Work plan for 2023-2026 to be prolonged
5.	Participation in WG "Guidline for Advanced Technology applications in seed testing"		ATC	published
<u>B3. Scientific information publications</u>				
	Publication title	Proposed /finalisation	Collaboration	Remarks/ update/ progress

1	Project Summary on ISTA Special Project 20-2	Published	ISMA, CFIA	Published in Seed Testing International
3	Seed ID Fact sheets	Published (partially)	ISMA/Authors	Seed Identification Guide®
5	Purity Committee annual activities	Published		Seed Testing International Oct 2025

C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

C1. Training and education workshops

	workshop subject /location	Proposed /finalisation	Collaboration	Remarks/ update/ progress
1	PUR Open meeting	Delivered		Christchurch AM
2	Purity workshop South Africa,	delivered		South Africa on 9-11 Sept, 2025
3	Purity workshop Uruguay	delivered		Uruguay 2. – 4. Juli
3	Purity workshop Turkey	delivered	MOI	Turkey 10-1 Oct.

D. PROFICIENCY TESTS

	Proficiency test	Proposed /finalisation	Collaboration	Remarks/ update/ progress
1	Seed Mixture Round 14	2025	PTC, accreditation department	Delivered by Sue Cousins,NZ in PT panel of PT25-2

F. SPECIAL PROJECTS

	Project title /subject	Proposed /finalisation	Collaboration	Remarks/ update/ progress
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1.	PSD handbook, revision	2028	ISTA Secretariate	Application
2	Training materials for seed ID on the ISTA universal list	Approved project		Project started in July 2021 100% (130) species in the UL were completed
3	Look into ways of training in seed identification and practical purity work	ongoing	ECOM/ISTA accreditation department	A seed ID webinar planned for 2025 ->> 04.02.2026

E. QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

	subject of question (see more details in PUR Teams)	date	country
1	Encrusted seeds-Chapter 11	31.01.2025	Italy
2	Blower setting	11.02.	Sweden
3	Table 3A-"Balin"-	13.03	Netherlands
4	Live Insects Analysis and Storage	19.03	Netherlands
5	Weight loss, two half working samples	Before 2025	Sweden
6	Inquiry about Seed Blower Model	11.06	Japan
7	ISTA Purity TCOM Question (Blower)	14.02	USA
8	requirements on ISTA Certificates soil/earth/ergots - Austria	18.07	Austria
9	Inquiry on ISTA Certificates for Urochloa brizantha x U. ruziziensis	2.07	ISTA Auditors

10	Query on Chapter 4.1 generell understanding and wording "estimate"	03.07	Ireland
11	Beta vulgaris - reporting species verification on IOC	23.07	PTChair
12	Clarification on amplitude wording in Chapter 16.2.2 of ISTA 2026 Rules	23.07	Poland
13	PSD 36 follow up to failed RULES Proposal (Paspalum....)	31.07	Uruguay
14	% value rounding off	05.08	Canada
15	Digits could affect purity test percentages	11.09	ISTA Auditors
16	Working weight of Vigna	15.10	ISTA Auditors
17	Terminology for IM and reporting soil	18.10.	New Zealand
18	Species naming	20.10.	RULES Chair
19	TSW test and MOI	28.09	RULES Chair
20	Question about attached inert matter.	07.11	Netherlands
21	Determination of Avena strigosa	9.12	Argentina

10. SHC Seed Health Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST				
	member	country		
1	CHAIR: Ruud Barnhoorn	Netherland	Since 2019	
2	VICE-CHAIR: Stephan Brière	Canada	Since 2018	
3	VICE-CHAIR: Isabelle Serandat	France	Since 2019	
4	Ilaria Alberti	Italy	Since 2011	
5	Angela Thüringer	Austria	Since 2025	
6	Gary Munkvold	United States	Since 2010	
7	Dorota Szopinska	Poland		
8	Rosa Piña González	Chile	Since 2016	
9	Xiulan Xu	China	Since 2017	
10	Marian Mc Ewan	United Kingdom	Since 2019	
11	Kohei Osaki	Japan	Since 2019	
12	Dr. Mahesh B	India	Since 2021	
13	Luciana Ferrand	Argentina	Since 2022	
14	Sandra Nagamani	India	Since 2023	
15	Shih-Min Su	S.C.T. of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Since 2023	
A. RULES DEVELOPMENT				
A1. Introduction of New Methods				
	Method name	proposed	collaboration	remarks
	subject	finalisation		update
				progress
1	<i>Fusarium graminearum</i> , <i>F. langsethiae</i> , <i>F. culmorum</i> , <i>F. poae</i> ... – Cereals new method	2013-2023	Nibio Norway/GEVES	Validation report finalized by Isabelle (GEVES) and Marian (SASA) and reviewed by SHCOM and StatCOM. The validation and method were approved and is now shared with the rules committee
2	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> on tomato – new method	2013-2023	Naktuinbouw	New rule presented during the annual meeting and voted positive by the DA's during the annual meeting. New rule becomes active from January 2026 on.
4	<i>Tilletia</i> species/wheat	2018-2023	GEVES	One method with two different workflows have been defined following the survey, depending on the threshold expected. The test plan is in progress to be submitted in the first quarter of 2026. Validation and CT to be organized. Since this method consists of two different execution approaches, two side by side validations will be conducted.

5	<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>glycinea</i>	2018-2023	ISU/GEVES	Test plan accepted by ISTA, dilution plating, multiple enzyme mediated characteristic screening and pathogenicity test confirmation The establishment for a fixed method execution for the pathogenicity assay is finally solved which immediately has an effect in the project moving forward with the aim of finalisation in 2026.
7	<i>Botrytis cinerea</i> on hemp seeds	2019-2023	CREA, GEVES	The Validation report was shared with the project reviewers. The validation report was not accepted due to a too high number of false positive results for the healthy seed in the organized CT. In accordance with the STATCOM in 2026 the CT only with healthy seed will be repeated to finalize this project prior to the end of 2026.
A3. Introduction of Rules Changes				
				<u>remarks</u>
	Subject	Proposed finalisation	collaboration	Update progress
1	PCR detection of <i>L. maculans</i>	2019-2024	Canadian Food Inspection Agency	Test plan accepted by ISTA, All validation performance characteristics are conducted. CT postponed due to lack of seed but Good seed batches have identified and participants to the ISTA CT are now searched for. Plan is to finalize this project in the coming year so that the PCR can be added to ISTA Rule 7-004
2	Identification of <i>Fusarium</i> species isolated from cereal seeds by barcoding	2025-2027	Geves	The Seed Health committee at the end of the year received a validation plan to add a molecular identification method to be added to the to be published 7-035 method.
B2. Training publications on specific seed testing topics				
				<u>remarks</u>
	Publication title	proposed	collaboration	update
1	Seed Health Handbook	2013-2022	Terry Aveling, SHC, ISTA editor	The Handbook was published around the ISTA 2025 congress in May.
2	STI article ISTA RPL	-	Nicolas Denance, SHCOM	Towards safer seeds: The changing landscape of seed health testing
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS				
C1. Training and education workshops				
				<u>remarks</u>
	Workshop subject	proposed	collaboration	update
	location	finalisation		progress
1	ISTA Insect detection in seed WS	Mar, 2025	ATS, SHCOM, Geves	This WS was organized to close the special project on insect detection in seeds SHCOM Chair invited to coordinate the closing discussion session. And took home enough concerns for organising a follow-up discussion section during the ISTA Congress in NZ.

2	Insect detection discussion ISTA Congress	May, 2025	ATS, SHCOM,	During this discussion the importance and need of an ISTA policy for detection of insects on seeds was emphasized. It is well accepted that insects play an overarching role for a lot of TC's. as an outcome an article was written for STI and the topic is transferred to the ECOM.
3	Edmonton, Canada @ SGS saskatoon side	Jun, 2026	SHCOM, SGS Canada	The planning and defining of a program for this workshop which will mainly focus on detection of fungal diseases is in progress and was announced in Dec 2025
4	Montpellier, France	Oct, 2026	SHCOM, StatCOM & ISF ISHI	First conversations in defining this afternoon long WS of the use of ISTA's SH statistic tools in validation of ISHI reference methods, have taken place and further meetings are planned for 2026
C2. Seminars				
				<u>remarks</u>
	Seminar subject	proposed	collaboration	update
	location	finalisation		progress
	APS Seed Assays Course series 2 Testing,	(11Feb-15Apr).	APS, ISTA SHCOM, ISF ISHI, USDA AOSA, NSHS	SHCOM chair presented ISTA in the session about Organizations & Associations Involved in Seed Health
D. PROFICIENCY TESTS				
	Proficiency test subject	proposed	collaboration	update
	location	finalisation		progress
1	<i>Aphelenchoides besseyi</i> on Rice	2025	Geves	Report published since April 2025
2	<i>A. dauci</i> and <i>A. radicina</i> on Carrot	2025	Geves	Report published since September 2025
F. SPECIAL PROJECTS				
	Project title / subject			<u>remarks</u>
	collaborating committees	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress
1	ISTA Reference Pest List:	2018-2024	GEVES	Version 14 published and version 15 under review and to be published in Jan 2026
2	Insect detection/identification project	2021-2022	ATC, ANSES-LSV	Project finalized. Report and paper in STI published. Closing workshop organized in March 2025.
3	Pathogen image collection	2024-2025	SGS, whole SHC, ISTA secretariat	The seed health image database is growing ever since the launch with now 161 entries by Dec 2025.
4	Euphresco – Share seeds	2023-2025	Geves	This project is to create an expertise centre for anonymous sharing of seeds for research purpose only. Supported

			MTA and Excel files are created and discussions on how to place them on the ISTA website are taking place.
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New project
New proposed finalisation date

11. Statistics Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST			
			change comments
1	CHAIR: Kirk Remund	USA	
2	VICE-CHAIR: Jean-Louis Laffont	France	
3	VICE-CHAIR: Nicholas Syring	USA	Appointed in 2025
4	Pablo Gonzalez Barrios	Uruguay	
5	Aurore Philibert	France	Joined in 2025
6	Oluseyi Odubote	USA	
7	Thomas Michelin	Brazil	
8	Bo-Jein Kuo	Separate Custom Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	
9	Miklos Varga	United Kingdom	
10	Lara Carolina Figueroa	Argentina	
11	Gabriel Carré	France	
A. RULES DEVELOPMENT			
A1. Introduction of New Methods/New Species			
			remarks
Method name	proposed	collaboration	update
subject	finalisation		progress
1	Cold test for Zea mays validation report review	Complete	Vigour
2	Fusarium validation report review	Complete	Seed Health
3	New SH rule for review Botrytis cinerea Hemp validation report review	Complete	Seed Health
4	Glycine Max Method Validation Analysis	Complete	Tetrazolium
5	Abelmoschus moisture pre-validation study	Complete	Moisture

6	Moringa moisture method validation data analysis	Complete	Moisture	
7	Introduction of a new method for breaking dormancy for sunflower seeds validation report review	Complete	Germination	
8	Test Plan on Begonia semperflorens review	Complete	Germination	
9	Test plan on integration of Boeremia linicola and Fusarium spp. in the ISTA method 7-007 review	Complete	Seed Health	
A3. Introduction of Rules Changes				
				remarks
	Subject	proposed	collaboration	update
	collaborating committees	finalisation		progress
1	New tolerance tables for Tetrazolium test (Chapter 6)	Complete	Tetrazolium	Approved at 2025 Ordinary Meeting
2	New tolerances for Germination test (Chapter 5)	Complete	GERM	Submitted as a Rules proposal in 2025
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS				
C2. Seminars				
				remarks
	Subject	proposed	collaboration	update
	location	finalisation		progress
1	ISTA Statistics Committee Workshop in Saint Louis in April 2025	Complete	Bayer Crop Science	Great workshop for the Young@ISTA STA Committee members, part of Special Project 24-1
2	SANSOR Webinar on Statistics in October 2025	Complete	SANSOR	100+ attendees
3	France ISHI Seed Health Statistics Workshop for October 2026	In progress	ISHI	
4	2027 Angers France Statistics Workshop	In progress	GEVES	This will be held before the 2027 ISTA meeting in Angers France
F. SPECIAL PROJECTS (24-1)				
	project title / subject			Remarks
	collaborating committees	proposed	collaboration	Update
		finalisation		Progress
1	Computer Vision Guidance Paper – first version released	Complete	Purity, ATC, PT, Secretariat	
2	Tolerance calculator for seeds tested by weighed reps	In progress	Forest & Shrub	
3	Accordance and Concordance for Varietal Testing Repeatability and Reproducibility	Complete	VAR	

4	Statistical methodology for determining the sampling intensity in seed lots	In progress	BSC	
5	Method Validation Working Group	In progress	ECOM, Secretariat	
6	Update of the “Tolerance and Confidence Interval calculator fro Germination Tests” and the “Germination Calculation and Expression of Results” calculator to increase the max number of tests from 10 to 20, in line with the 2025 Rules proposal	Complete	GER	
7	Development of version 1.0 of the ISTAtzMV() R function for the analysis of terazolium method validation studies	In progress	TEZ	
E. QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE & Reviews				
	subject of question		Date	From
1	Arachis PT high R&r variation		January	PT committee
2	SeedCalc8 quant seed health use		January	Netherlands
3	Lettuce data analysis		January	Canada
4	Review for SST		February	SST
5	Tetrazolium test PT results calculation, new situation		February	Switzerland
6	Rules proposal for Tetrazolium		February	Italy
7	<u>Combining</u> Reps in Germination Test		February	United States
8	Estimation of the number of damaged seeds after multiple runs of the same sample through the Videometer		February	Denmark
9	ISTA Germination tolerance calculation program/ tolerances tables		March	United States
10	Questions on GMO PT		May	GMO Committee
11	ELISA Method Validation		August	Netherlands
12	Germination Tolerances		September	Germination Committee
13	Questions on GMO PT		October	ISTA Secretariat
14	Maximum group size in GMO testing		December	Italy

12. STO Storage Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST			Country	Active since
1	Chair: Jayanthi Nadarajan		New Zealand	2019
2	Vice-Chair: Steven Groot		Netherlands	2016
3	Andreas Börner		Germany	2010
4	Sershen Naidoo*		USA	2011
5	G V Jagadish		India	2019
6	Nelson Barbosa Machado-Neto		Brazil	2022
7	Umarani Sinniah		Malaysia	2022
8	Louise Colville		United Kingdom	2022
9	Elisa Monteze Bicalho		Brazil	2022
10	Irfan Afzal		Pakistan	2022
11	Filippo Guzzon		Italy	2024
12	Peterson W. Wambugu		Kenya	2024
13	Karen Sommerville		Australia	2024
14	Vacant			
15	Vacant			
	ECOM Liaison officers: Claid Mujaju and Sergio Pasquini			
	*Sershen expressed his interest to withdraw from the committee in December 2025.			
A. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY			Target	
A1. Knowledge and technology development in the area of seed storage for under-researched desiccation tolerant (orthodox) seed species			Proposed for completion by 2028	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filippo Guzzon at the Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) developed a protocol to break seed dormancy in wild millets (genera <i>Cenchrus</i>, <i>Digitaria</i>, <i>Setaria</i>, <i>Urochloa</i>). As dormancy in orthodox seeds impacts seed longevity, long-term storage for up to 40 years at MSB was also tested on these accessions. The outcome of this study is currently under review in Seed Science and Technology Journal and will be made widely available once published. In collaboration with IPK (Andreas Börner) and the University of Pavia (Graziano Rossi), Filippo Guzzon at the Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) has started a project to clarify seed longevity of a diverse set of onion accessions long-term stored at IPK and the 		Target achieved for 2025	

	<p>University of Pavia Germplasm Bank. The experiments are ongoing and led by the seed laboratory of the University of Pavia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A project investigating the effects of plasma treatments on dormancy, germination, seed storage and surface disinfection of six UK native tree species was completed. The project led by Louise Colville (RBG Kew) in collaboration with Elsoms Seeds, Leibniz Institute for Plasma Science and Technology and phenoLytics was funded by the Forestry Commission in the United Kingdom and incorporated highthroughput 3D X-ray seed and seedling phenotyping for quantitative analysis of seed quality. A review paper and several research papers are in preparation, and further funding has been awarded to continue the work. 		
<p>A2. Seed storage knowledge and technology development for difficult to store, recalcitrant, intermediate, oily and exceptional species</p>		<p>Proposed for completion by 2028</p>	
	<p>Jayanthi Nadarajan presented an invited talk on ‘Plant Cryopreservation – Stresses and preventions’ at the X International Scientific and Practical Conference on Biotechnology as an Instrument for Plant Biodiversity Conservation (physiological, biochemical, embryological, genetic and legal aspects) (BIOTECH 2024), 19th - 21st November 2024, New Delhi, India. This talk highlighted that plant tissues being cryopreserved go through oxidative-, wounding-, osmotic-, temperature-, physical- and physiological- stresses starting from the isolation of tissue before cryopreservation until the post-cryopreservation recovery stage. It also emphasised how understanding the nature and mechanisms of these stresses will help in developing mitigation strategies to overcome them and to optimize post-cryopreservation recovery. Advances in the knowledge of biochemical pathways of these stresses and cryo-engineering technologies may help to inform development of stress-preventive strategies. The most recent developments that are revolutionising cryopreservation approaches in leading to significantly improved outcomes were highlighted in this talk. This talk was written as a full paper which was accepted for publication in Acta Horticulturae.</p>	<p>Target achieved for 2025</p>	
<p>B. PUBLICATIONS</p>			
<p><u>B1. Publications of the seed storage handbook</u></p>			
		<p>Target</p>	<p>Collaboration</p>
	<p>Handbook on Seed Storage</p>		
	<p>Most chapters for the Seed Storage Handbook are at the final full draft stage. A few chapters still require some significant input, and the committee is working on this. The next phase would require further editing of the chapters for content and continuity before seeking ISTA secretariat for editorial service.</p>	<p>Proposed for completion by 2026 – On target</p>	<p>Several external authors who are experts in different seed storage biology area are</p>

			collaborating for this task.
	B2. Scientific information publications		
	Target: 10 scientific publications per year (book chapters and journal articles, including in SS&T) on seed storage.	Target	Collaboration
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A. Alfaro Pinto, A. Clavijo McCormick, C. McGill, F. Archila Morales and J. Nadarajan (2025). Asymbiotic <i>in vitro</i> germination and viability assessment of three threatened neotropical epiphytic orchids of the <i>Lycaste</i> genus. <i>Seed Science and Technology</i>, 53, 3, 391-405. https://doi.org/10.15258/sst.2025.53.3.04 2. J. Nadarajan, J. Divinagracia, L. Mathew, A. Esfandiari, C. Wiedow, E. Koot, A. Duffy and E. Morgan (2025). Establishment of ex situ conservation technologies for Aotearoa New Zealand's <i>Actinidia</i> sp. Genetic resources. Acta Horticulturae 1431. ISHS 2025. DOI 10.17660/ActaHortic.2025.1431.49 Proc. XI International Symposium on Kiwifruit. Eds.: S.M. Pilkington, J. Burdon and S. Nardoza. 3. Karen D. Sommerville, Lisa Hill, Catherine A. Offord and Christina Walters (2025). Thermal behaviour of lipids in short-lived seeds of Australian rainforest species. <i>Annals of Botany</i> 00: 1–18, 2025 https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcaf181. 4. Salazar, D.E., Santos M., L.G., Guzzon, F., Wenzl, P. (2025) Effects of covering structures and gibberellic acid in promoting the seed germination of Urochloa. <i>Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution</i>, 72: 6221-6230. 5. van Hintum, T., Bartha, B., Niggli, C., ..., Guzzon, F. (2025) A proposal for genebank metrics to enhance collection management. <i>Plant Genetic Resources: Characterization and Utilization</i> (in press). 6. Fatima, F., E. Khalid, I. Afzal, M. Usman, M. A. Nadeem and M. Kamran. 2025. Evaluation of cotton (<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i> L.) seed longevity and deterioration: Physiological and biochemical aspects in relation to moisture contents during storage in different module systems. <i>Journal of Stored Products Research</i>. 111: 102553. 7. Vesper, J., van der Tuin, J., Kodde, J., Groot, S. P. C., van der Sman, R. G. M., & Schutyser, M. A. I. (2025). Effect of drying conditions on quality of primed cabbage seeds and ethanol degradation as promising quality parameter. <i>Drying Technology</i>, <i>Published online: 03 Feb 2025</i>, 1–18. https://doi.org/10.1080/07373937.2025.2458139. 8. Groot, S. P. C., Goedhart, P. W., de Souza Vidigal, D., & Kodde, J. (2025). Modelling the quantitative effect of oxygen on the ageing of primed celery seeds. <i>The Plant Journal</i>, 122(1), e70066. https://doi.org/10.1111/tplj.70066 9. Klaedtke, S., Mothes, S., Bender, M., Gfeller, V., Guidotti, D., Groot, S. P. C., . . . Messmer, M. M. (2025). <i>Training material</i> 	Proposed for completion by 2025 – Target exceeded	Various external collaborators

	<p>on the production of healthy, high-quality organic seed. Retrieved from https://orgprints.org/id/eprint/56462/</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. E-learning module: Groot, Steven PC. "Module 12: Seed maturity and harvest." (2025). EU LiveSeeding project. https://itab.bio/en/elearningseedproduction/Module12 11. E-learning module: Groot, Steven PC. "Module 13: Seed drying and storage" (2025). EU LiveSeeding project. https://itab.bio/en/elearningseedproduction/Module13 12. FILETI, JESSICA FONTES; WATANABE, LAÍS NOGUEIRA; CUSTODIO, CECI CASTILHO; FOSTER, JEREMY ANTOINE; MACHADO-NETO, NELSON BARBOSA. Banking on pollen: storing germplasm to preserve genetic diversity and support <i>ex situ</i> conservation of two <i>Cattleya</i> species. BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION. v.35, p.1, 2025. 13. ABRANTES, FABIANA DE LIMA; Machado-Neto, N. B.; CUSTODIO, C.C. Seed Storage and Germination of Three Grass Species: Effect of Spikelet Weight and Dormancy. BRAZILIAN ARCHIVES OF BIOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY (ONLINE). v.68, p.e25241009, 2025. 14. Griffio A, Usai F, Sehmisch S, Laager F, Börner A, Pasotti L, Macovei A: Application of machine learning models for non-invasive seed quality detection. Curr. Plant Biol. 44 (2025) 100557. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpb.2025.100557 15. Puchta-Jasińska M, Bolc P, Motor A, Börner A, Boczkowska M Comprehensive profiling of the miRNome and degradome reveals regulatory signatures of seed aging and germination. Int. J. Mol. Sci. 26 (2025) 9292. https://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ijms26199292 16. Lohwasser U, Börner A (Eds.): Book of abstracts. Scientific Seed Symposium One century of ISTA - a milestone for seed technology and research", Meeting of the Working Group Seed Science and Certification (GPZ/GPW) & Section IV Seeds (VDLUFA), 11-13 March 2025." (2025) 36 pp. 		
<u>C. SEMINARS</u>			
		Target	Collaboration
1	<p>Committee members presentation as various seminars on seed storage:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jayanthi Nadarajan, Liya Mathew, Karin van der Walt, Vishant Tomar and Hugh W. Pritchard (2025). Plant cryopreservation using the vacuum infiltration vitrification (VIV) method. Oral presentation for the CryoSymp2025 – The V International Symposium on Plant Cryopreservation, 14-18th October 2025, Beijing, China. 2. Irfan Afzal organized a seminar on “Explore the latest research, strategies, and innovations in seed conservation, ensuring sustainable agriculture and biodiversity for future generations” at 		

the University of Mohammed VI Polytechnics, Laayoune, 29 October 2025.

3. **Irfan Afzal** (2025). Seed Technology for Climate Resilience: Empowering Farmers and Growing Industry Prosperity. An invited talk at the 5th International Plant Breeding Congress, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), Laayoune, Morocco. December 1-5, 2025.
4. **Nelson Barbosa** (2025). Importance of *ex situ* conservation: Seed banks and plant collections. Presented at the VI SIMBRAORQ (6th Brazilian Orchid Symposium), 5-9 **August 2025**, UENF Convention Center in Campos dos Goytacazes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil- August 2025.
5. **Karen Sommerville**. Conserving Exceptional Plants Symposium, Online, April 2025. Hosted by Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
 - a. Title 1: Identifying exceptional species
 - b. Title 2: Cryopreservation of embryonic axes
6. **Karen Sommerville**. International Society of Seed Science Conference, Perth, Sept 2025 – Plenary talk sponsored by ISTA and supported by STO Comm. Title: Rainforest Seed Conservation – a decade of discovery.
7. **Karen Sommerville**. Australasian Seed Science Conference, Horsham, Sept 2025. Title: Thermal behaviour of lipids in short-lived rainforest seeds.
8. **Karen Sommerville**. Australasian Biospecimen Network Association Conference, Oct 2025 – Plenary talk sponsored by ABNA. Title: Changing with the times – adapting conservation approaches to meet changing needs at the Australian PlantBank
9. **Karen Sommerville**. Lecture on collecting and banking rainforest seeds to Minyumai Indigenous Protected Area rangers, April 2025.
10. **Louise Colville**. Conserving Exceptional Plants Symposium, Online, April 2025. Hosted by Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
 - a. Title 1: Cryopreservation of short-lived seeds
 - b. Title 2: The Kew Cryobank
11. **Louise Colville**. Identifying, characterizing and understanding short-lived tree seeds. International Society for Seed Science conference, 15-19 September 2025, Perth, Australia
12. **Louise Colville**. Plasma and phenotyping technologies for improved seed quality for tree production. International Society for Seed Science conference, 15-19 September 2025, Perth, Australia

D. TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

Target

Collaboration

1	ISTA regional workshop on Seed Quality Maintenance during Storage, ICARDA Genebank, Rabat, Morocco – this workshop is planned for 2026 and will be organised by Irfan Afzal. Planings are in the process with programme, speakers, and budgeting finalisation.	Proposed for completion by 2026 - On target	TZ TCOM MOI TCOM
2	A hands-on course on seed drying and storage at Kasatsart University, Bangkok, Thailand was completed on 23-27 June 2025. This event was co organised by Steven Groot in the frame of the International Seed Academy. This five-day training included both theoretical lectures and practical exercises. Participants were from Thailand (4), India (5), Malaysia (2) and Germany (2), both from public and private organisations.	Proposed for completion by 2025 - Target achieved	Various external collaborators
3	A training course on plant cryopreservation was delivered at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom, 4-12 November 2025, with 11 participants from 10 countries (Canada, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Mexico, Philippines, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom and USA) trained. This training course, organised by Louise Colville, was delivered by Kew's scientists and guest lecturers who are specialists in cryopreservation and plant conservation. This course provided opportunities to learn the theoretical basis and gain hands-on experience of the application of cryopreservation approaches for the ex situ conservation of plants. Lecture and practical sessions covered cryopreservation approaches for short-lived and intermediate seeds, embryonic axes of recalcitrant seeds, pollen, spores and shoot tips. This course has been delivered as part of the <u>Global Tree Seed Bank: Unlocked Programme</u> , which is funded by the Weston Foundation.	Proposed for completion by 2025 - Target achieved	Various external collaborators
4	A hands-on training course on seed drying and storage for national genebanks in Uganda (1 st -30 th August), Tanzania (1 st – 30 th September), Benin (1 st – 30 th October) and Ghana (1 st – 30 th November 2025). These on-site hands-on trainings were conducted in the national genebanks of Tanzania, Uganda, Benin and Ghana and was facilitated by Peterson Wambugu from the STOTCOM. The objective of the training was to equip staff of these genebanks with skills, knowledge, and technical competencies to handle seed drying, storage and other essential genebank operations. The trainings lasted for three weeks in each Genebank. The training enabled the development/review of standard operating procedures, operational manuals and other protocols thereby significantly enhancing the technical capacity of these genebanks to undertake genetic resources conservation. However, these genebanks continue to face challenges due to inadequate infrastructural capacity, specifically non-functional drying rooms and cold storage facilities, majority of which have declining seed storage capacity. Unreliable power supply is also a major challenge facing the seed storage facilities. To address this challenge, there is need for genebanks to explore alternative and reliable power supply options such as solar energy. These genebanks are handling many crop-wild relatives and wild species whose seed storage behaviour is not known. This presents a major technical challenge for these genebanks and underscores the need for more	Proposed for completion by 2025 - Target achieved	Crop Trust

	<p>research to gain insights on the seed storage requirements of these species. The training underscored the significant value of facilitating regional exchange programmes to promote peer learning among national genebanks. Such exchanges are essential, as many genebanks across the region face similar operational and resource-related challenges. Sharing practical experiences and adaptive solutions fosters mutual learning, strengthens regional collaboration, and enhances collective problem-solving capacity.</p>		
5	<p>The 19th Scientific Seed Symposium of the Working Group Seed Science and Certification of the German Society of Plant Breeding and the German Society of Plant Cultivation Research. 11-13 March 2025, Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Gatersleben - A total of 94 participants from 11 countries discussed the topic: "One Century of ISTA – A Milestone for Seed Technology and Research". In 2024, the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) celebrated its 100th anniversary. This event formed the basis for the organisation of this year's meeting. The opening address was given by Dr. Andreas Wais, Secretary General of ISTA. In his overview of the 100-year development of the international organisation, Dr. Wais provided insights into past successes and outlined upcoming tasks. He emphasised that the challenges of global food security, climate change, and evolving agricultural practices require continuous collaboration and innovation. In a second keynote address on the topic of '100 years of ISTA: Exploring long-term studies and seed viability markers,' PD Dr. Manuel Nagel from the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) in Gatersleben pointed out that the reliable and standardized assessment of seed quality, particularly in international trade, remains crucial. In addition to original quality and viability, seed longevity is gaining increasing importance and serves both as an indicator of minimum shelf life in international trade and of storage capacity in gene banks. Twelve further technical presentations followed, supplemented by two poster presentations.</p>		
6	<p>Training in methods for processing and assessing dormancy and storage behaviour in seeds of <i>Coprosma</i> spp. Provided for Theo Brook (PhD candidate, Imperial College of London), Mar 2025 by Karen Sommerville.</p>		
7	<p>Training in methods for germinating and assessing storage behaviour of rainforest species provided to Dr Gibson Sosanika (lecturer, School of Forestry, Papua New Guinea University of Technology), by Karen Sommerville. October 2025.</p>		
8	<p>Four MSc students co-supervised by Louise Colville were trained and successfully completed their projects at RBG Kew:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and characterising short-lived tree seeds • Cryopreservation of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. pollen for ex situ conservation 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollen banking of <i>Quercus robur</i> for ex situ conservation, including cryopreservation • The impact of cryoprotection on the germination of <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> L. embryonic axes using two infiltration methods 		
9	Training in biophysical and biochemical techniques for assessing lipid changes during ageing of <i>Populus nigra</i> and <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> seeds provided to Magdalena Trusiak (PhD student, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn) by Louise Colville. November-December 2025		
E. SPECIAL PROJECT			
	Project title	Target	Collaboration
1	<p>Seed storage requirements following testing – led by Steven Groot</p> <p>According to ISTA rules seed samples for certification need to be stored for at least one year for in case retesting is requested. The storage conditions are not defined and there is doubt if for instance vigour levels can be maintained for such a period. A draft project proposal has been prepared by the STO (Steven Groot) and other ISTA committees have been invited to participate. The Bulking and Sampling, Tetrazolium, Variety and Vigour committees have responded positively to collaborate in this project. With their input the draft proposal will be adjusted and submitted to ISTA for funding.</p>	Proposed for completion by 2028 - On target	BSC TCOM, TZ TCOM, VAR TCOM, VIG TCOM

13. TEZ Tetrazolium Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST			
		since	
1	Chair: Sergio Pasquini	2003	Italy
2	vice-Chair: Steffi Krämer	1999	Germany
3	Second vice-Chair: Eoin O'Connor	2023	Ireland
4	Ignacio Aranciaga	2010	Argentina
5	Maria Belen Aranguren	2001	Argentina
6	Alessandra Arioli	2016	Italy
7	Jose de Barros Franca-Neto	1998	Brazil
8	Sunita BH	2016	India
9	Valerie Blouin	2005	France
10	Augusto Martinelli	1992	Argentina
11	Shaminder Miranpuri	2022	USA
12	Tauhid Parvez	2015	Canada
13	Asia Roberts-Yalland	2022	United Kingdom
14	Veena Gouda	2022	India
15	Edith Daboue	2022	Burkina Faso
A. RULES DEVELOPMENT			
<u>A2. Introduction of New Species</u>			
	Species and test	proposed	collaboration
		finalisation	
1	<i>Glycine max</i> L. TEZ test	Nov 2025	
2	Alignment between Working Sheets and Rules about <i>Urochloa</i> spp.	Oct 2025	
<u>A3. Introduction of Rules Changes</u>			
1	Soybean Rule's proposal on TEZ test	Oct 2025	
B. PUBLICATIONS			
<u>B1. Publications to accompany the Rules</u>			
1	New Short videos on TEZ methods	Ongoing process	ISTA Secretariat

	<u>B2. Training publications on specific seed testing topics</u>		
	Publication title	proposed	collaboration
		finalisation	
1	New Tetrazolium Handbook	2025	
2	TEZ Working Sheets	Ongoing process to be published online	
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS			
<u>C1. Training and education workshops</u>			
	workshop subject	proposed	collaboration
<u>C2. Seminars</u>			
	Seminar subject	proposed	collaboration
	location	finalisation	
1	ISTA TEZ Webinar on basic practise about grasses.	November 2025	ISTA Marketing Department
D. PROFICIENCY TESTS			
	Proficiency test subject	proposed	collaboration
	location	finalisation	
1	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	2025	PTC
2	Method validation on viability <i>Glycine max</i> L.	Nov 2025	PTC, Secretariat
3	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> L.	Samples dispatched	PTC
E. QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE			
1	An alternative test with X-ray and NaI		ATC
2	Evaluation on viable seeds for <i>Festuca rubra</i>		PTC
F. SPECIAL PROJECTS			

Leaders of the working groups

<i>Glycine max</i> L. method validation			Ignacio Aranciaga (AR)
<i>Moringa oleifera</i>			Steffi Kraemer (D)

Lam. method validation			
New TEZ Handbook			Jose Franca Neto (BR)
WG on short videos			Valerie Blouin (F)
contact persons			
ECOM Liaison Officers			Sergio Pasquini (I), Ignacio Aranciaga (AR)

14. VAR Variety Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST			
			change comments
1	Chair: Marie-Claude Gagnon	Canada	Member since 2020 and Chair since 2025
2	Vice-Chair: Ana Laura Vicario	Argentina	Member since 2007 and Vice-Chair since 2025
3	Vice-Chair: Sean Walkowiak	Canada	Member since 2022 and Vice-Chair since 2025
4	Anne Bernole	France	Member since 2016
5	Berta Killermann	Germany	Member since 2004
6	Chiara Delogu	Italy	Member since 2007
7	Kae-Kang Hwu	Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Member since 2007
8	Ksenija Markovic	Serbia	Member since 2013
9	Ksenija Taski-Ajukovic	Serbia	Member since 2010
10	Keshavulu Kunusoth	India	Member since 2010
11	Ana Patricia Fernandez Getino	Spain	Member since 2021
12	Mariana Menoni	Uruguay	Member since 2021
13	Umashankar Bellan	India	Member since 2023
14	Lorella Andreani	Italy	Member since 2023

15	Beni Kaufman	United States		Member since 2024
A. RULES DEVELOPMENT				
A1. Introduction of New Methods				
				remarks
	Method name	proposed	collaboration	update
	subject	finalisation		progress
1	DNA-based methods for barley	2025	SEC, STA,	<p>Leader: Doris Kaiser from Austria.</p> <p>Validations documents and rules proposal have been reviewed and approved by VAR COM members with 14 approbations and 1 abstention. They have been submitted for inclusion in the 2026 ISTA Rules.</p>
2	Validation of newly developed <i>Lolium</i> markers for determination of annual types in perennial ryegrass varieties.	2026	SEC, USDA, AOSA, STA	<p>Leaders: Giovanni Lopez from the Netherlands (ISTA) and as co-lead Dan Curry from the USA (AOSA).</p> <p>The design of new markers was necessary to improve the limit of detection. Taqman assays were run as well as with digital PCR. It was found that dPCR was more quantitative and sensitive than real-time PCR. Tests on 8 annual, 8 perennial and 8 hybrid varieties suggest that the three probe sets produced accurate and consistent results. Spike tests suggest it is possible to consistently detect 2% contamination of annual in perennial ryegrass. Testing will continue to compare assays with results of commercial samples.</p>
A2. Introduction of New Species				
				Remarks
	Species and test	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress
A3. Introduction of Rules Changes				
				remarks

	Subject	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress
B. PUBLICATIONS				
<u>B1. Publications to accompany the Rules</u>				
				remarks
	Publication title	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress
1	Handbook – DNA-based methods	2026	SEC, STA, GMO, Editorial	8 members of the committee started working on the Handbook during 2023. Several meetings were held, and significant progress were made. Chapters on statistical aspects are being revised and discussed together with the STACOM and accreditation aspects with the Head of the Accreditation Department. Together with the STACOM, discussions were held on the application of a new methodology for CT data analysis and interpretation, introducing the concepts of accordance and concordance.
<u>B3. Scientific information publications</u>				
				remarks
	Publication title	proposed	collaboration	update
		finalisation		progress
1	VARCOM progress report 2025 was published on STI	2025	SEC	Finalized
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS				
<u>C1. Training and education workshops</u>				
				remarks

	workshop subject	proposed	collaboration	update
	location	finalisation		progress
C2. Seminars				
				Remarks
	Seminar subject	proposed	collaboration	Update
	location	finalisation		Progress
D. PROFICIENCY TESTS				
	Proficiency test subject	proposed	collaboration	Update
	location	finalisation		Progress
1	DNA-based methods (SSR) - wheat	2026	STA, SEC, Accreditation Department	Samples for wheat PT are kept, prepared and shipped by Canadian Grain Commission. A new PT will be offered in 2026.
2	DNA-based methods (SSR) - maize	2026	STA, SSEC, Accreditation Department	We are working on getting public maize lines and hybrids seed samples for preparing a PT in 2026.
E. SPECIAL PROJECTS				
	project title / subject			Remarks
	collaborating committees	proposed	collaboration	Update
		finalisation		Progress
	Artificial Intelligence for variety identification	2026	ATC, STA, SEC	A proposal was presented for evaluation of the performance of a neuronal network system for variety identification. The second dataset requested by the STACOM was produced in Argentina by a member of ATC using the same samples used for the first test. Both datasets are now with STACOM for analysis.
F. QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE				
	subject of question			from
				country
G: Further Comments - Responsibilities				

<u>leader of working groups</u>				
1	PT leader for DNA-based tests			Ana Vicario (AR)
2	CT leader for AI variety identification assay			Ana Vicario (AR)
3	CT leader for barley			Doris Kaiser (AT) and Marie-Claude Gagnon (CA)
4	Handbook leader			Marie-Claude Gagnon (CA)
5	Lolium WG leader			Giovanni López (NL)
<u>contact persons</u>				
	ECOM			Keshavulu Kunusoth (IN) Ruoqing Wang (CA)
	UPOV			Ana Laura VICARIO (AR)
	Website			None (at present)
	Workshops			To be determined
	Permanent guest from UPOV			Leontino TAVEIRA (leontino.taveira@upov.int)
	Permanent guest from OECD			Gerry HALL (gerry.hall@sasa.gsi.gov.uk)

	New project
	New proposed finalisation date

15. VIG Seed Vigour Committee

A. RULES DEVELOPMENT			
	<u>A1. Introduction of New Methods</u>	proposed finalisation	Progress report Date
1	Cold test for <i>Zea mays</i> L.	2025	Validation report and Rule proposal were submitted
2	Tetrazolium staining as vigour test for <i>Zea mays</i> L.	2026	Lab works completed and Field tests continue
3			
<u>A2. Introduction of New Species</u>			
	Species and test	proposed finalisation	Progress report Date
1	Controlled Deterioration test for <i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> L.	2027	Test plan on-going
2	Radicle emergence test for <i>Spinacia oleracea</i> L.	2028	Practical work completed and publication in preparation
3	Radicle emergence test for <i>Zea mays</i> convar. <i>saccharata</i> (sweet corn)	2028	Research completed and results to be evaluated
4	Radicle emergence test for <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	2028	Comparative tests achieved, data analysis on going
5	Radicle emergence test for <i>Capsicum annum</i> L.	2028	The quality of the seed lots defined, RE test will start 2026.
6	Radicle emergence test for <i>Citrullus lanatus</i>	2028	Working group leader out of VIG TCOM, seed material identified, experimental work on-going
7	Radicle emergence test for <i>Triticum turgidum</i> L. subsp. <i>durum</i>	2028	Working group leader out of VIG TCOM, scientific publication on going
<u>A3. Introduction of Rules Changes</u>			

	Subject	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date
1	Radicle emergence test for <i>Allium cepa</i> L.	2026	Validation report and Rule proposal were submitted

B. PUBLICATIONS				
<u>B1. Publications to accompany the Rules</u>				
	Publication title	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date	
1	Method validation report for application of the radicle emergence test to <i>Allium cepa</i> .	2026	Done for STI 171	
2	A reliable cold test method to assess seed vigour for maize.	2026	19/12/25 for STI 171	
3				
<u>B2. Training publications on specific seed testing topics</u>				
	Publication title	Proposed finalisation	Progress report Date	
<u>B3. Scientific information publications</u>				
	Publication title	Proposed finalisation	Collaboration	Progress report Date
1	A controlled deterioration method for assessing the vigour of tomato seed lots.	2025		Accepted with minor revisions in SST 18/12/25
2	Influence of seed moisture content in	2025	Audrey Dupont,	Poster at the Seed Symposium of 34th ISTA Congress, Christchurch, New-Zealand

	the development of a controlled deterioration method for tomato seeds.		Marie-Hélène Wagner , Sylvie Ducournau	
3	Evaluation of camelina (<i>Camelina sativa</i>) seed quality during storage in relation to seed moisture and temperature,	2025	M. Khajeh-Hosseini , R. Cheshmeh-Sefidi and F. Yaghoubi	Seed Science and Technology, 53, 1, 91-104.
4	Nutritional value, antioxidant and anti-proliferative activity of whole wheat grains and their bran	2025.	Asnaashari, M. and Khajeh-Hosseini, M.	Journal of Food Quality, 19 pages
5	Temperature regimes to break morphophysiological dormancy and promote germination in seeds of 14 alpine and endangered species of <i>Fritillaria</i> in Iran,	2025	H. Sharifi, M. Khajeh-Hosseini , C.C. Baskin and K. Zhang	Seed Science and Technology, 53, 3, 463-484
6	Electrical Conductivity Relates Seed Germination and Seedling Emergence in <i>Tagetes</i> Seed Lots.	2025	Guloksuz, T., Eker, A. H., Ertürk, N. Kadioğlu, N. and Demir, I.	Bahçe 54 (Special issue) 1: 26-30
7	AI-supported platform for the classification and sorting of plant seeds: Evaluation for seed purity analysis of rapeseed.	2025	Goertz, S. , Kaschuba, R., Fiedler, J., Bogdan, M., Kukushkin, M., Schmid T., Enders, M.	Poster at the Seed Symposium of 34th ISTA Congress, Christchurch, New-Zealand
8	Effect of accelerated aging on <i>Brassica napus</i> seedling microbiota.	2025	Bziuk, N., Wassermann, B., Goertz, S. , Zur, J., Rietz,	Poster at the Seed Symposium of 34th ISTA Congress, Christchurch, New-Zealand

			S., Abbadi, A., Berg, G.	
9	Bestimmung des Keimwurzelaustritts als Triebkraftparameter für Wintergerste.	2025	Goertz, S. , Mollenhauer, D., Suhr, C.	Presentation at the 136th VDLUFA Congress, Oldenburg, Germany
10	The Impact of Seed Health Treatment on Seed Quality of <i>Cucurbita moschata</i> Accessions	2025	I-Cheng Chen , Ching-nung Chiao and Maarten van Zonneveld	Poster at the Seed Symposium of 34th ISTA Congress, Christchurch, New-Zealand
11	Assessing Seed Dormancy and Quality in Spinach (<i>Spinacia oleracea</i>) Breeding Materials	2025	I-Cheng Chen , Oon-Ha Shin, Allen Van Deynze and E. Charles Brummer	Poster at the 2025 Plant Breeding Retreat, Bodega Bay, United States
12	Role of Phosphorus in Seed Vigour in Mustard (<i>Brassica juncea</i>): Implications from Radicle Emergence and Cell Cycle Activity	2025	Takashi SHINOHARA , Yuka MASUDA and Saki YOSHIDA	Oral Presentation at the Seed Symposium of 34th ISTA Congress, Christchurch, New-Zealand
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS				
<u>C1. Training and education workshops</u>				
	workshop subject location	proposed finalisation		Progress report Date
1	Workshop Germination and Vigour in France	2025	Alison Powell, Gillian Musgrove, Marie-Helen Wagner	Collaboration with GERM Committee. Held between 1 st and 5 th December, 2025: 27 participants
2	Workshop in India	2026		Preparations are continued
3				
4				
5				
<u>C2. Seminars</u>				

Seminar subject and location		finalisation	Progress report Date
1	<i>6th Iranian National Congress of Seed Science and Technology</i> , LOCATION: Kerman, Iran,	18-19 th Feb 2025	Mohammad Khajeh-Hosseini Invited speaker, topic: Seed production and climate change,
2	Training of 4 MSc and 2 PhD students on Seed Testing methods (purity, 1000 seed weight, germination, TTC test and vigour (Conductivity)) in 16 hours, LOCATION: Faculty of Agriculture, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran,	October-November 2025.	Mohammad Khajeh-Hosseini Postgraduate training in seed testing methods (purity, germination, vigour)
3	109° Seed Quality Training: Vigour Methods LOCATION: Rosario, Argentina.	30th and 31st October and 3rd and 4th November 2025	Carina Gallo
4	ISSS/ISTA webinar on Seed vigour: mechanisms and applications. The	10 December 2025,	Alison Powell, ISTA presentation title: Seed ageing / repair hypothesis: a basis for image analysis in vigour testing
5	Antalya, Turkey. Seminar on seed vigour and vigour tests. Organized by the Turkish Breeders Association.	14, February 2025	Hulya Ilbi
D. Proficiency Tests			
Proficiency Test Subject		proposed finalisation	Progress report Date

1	PT27-1 Pisum sativum, Electroconductivity	2027		PTC
2	PT27-3 Glycine max, Radicle Emergence	2027		PTC
3				
E. Questions to the Committee				
Subject of question		Date	from	
1	RE test for wheat and soybean: 2 mm evaluation	May 2025		Argentina
2	RE test for radish: evaluation of trapped radicles	August 25		Thailand
3	EC test for pea with high SMC: drying time at 30°C	August 25		France
4	Vigour tests for tomato and pepper	September 25		South Africa
5	RE test for oilseed rape: KNO3 or water?	September 25		Belgium
F. SPECIAL PROJECTS				
project title / subject		proposed finalisation	Progress report Date	
collaborating committees				
1	Flow cytometry and wheat seed vigour	2028		
2	Seed vigour for organic seed production in chickpea	2028		Conventional and organic seed production of chickpeas using transplanting: Practical work completed
3	Investigation the variation of RE test in wheat	2028		Comparative trial done and test results being returned in 2025
4	Investigation of the variation of EC test in radish	2028		
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST				
		Country	Change and Date	
1	CHAIR: Hulya Ilbi	Turkey		Become a new chair May,2025

2	VICE CHAIR: Marie-Helene Wagner	France		Become a new vice chair, May, 2025
3	VICE CHAIR: Mohammad Khajeh-Hosseini	Iran		Become a new vice chair, May, 2025
4	Alison A. Powell	United Kingdom		Former chair since 1995
5	Gillian Musgrove	United Kingdom		
6	Tim Loeffler	USA		
7	Ibrahim Demir	Turkey		
8	Carina Gallo	Argentina		
9	Carey Matthiessen	Canada		
10	Simon Goertz	Germany		
11	G.V. Jagadish	India		
12	Takashi Shinohara	Japan		
13	I-Cheng Chen	S.C.T of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu		Moved from Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to pursue PhD studies
14	Audrey Dupont	France		New member May,2025
15	Pappasorn Wattanakulpakin	Thailand		New member May,2025
16	Sunitha BS	India		New member May,2025
17	Stan Matthews	United Kingdom		Left the committee, February, 2025
18	Jaana Kaurila	Finland		Left the committee, February, 2025

Additional information for the annual report and issues of Common Technical Interest

	Date	Subject	Comments
1	09/04/25	VIG TCOM meeting to welcome new members and plan work programme for the triennium	Online with Teams thanks to Nadine Ettl: 13 members
2	September 2025	2024 Annual report of Vigour Committee	Published in STI 170

3	05/12/25	VIG TCOM tribute to Stan Matthews	Hybrid meeting after the end of Workshop in Angers: 9 members
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16. Wild Species Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST			
	Name	Country	Chair/Vice-Chair/Member since:
1	Chair: Gil Waibel	USA	2024
2	Vice-Chair: Dr. Ruoqing Wang	Canada	2024
3	Vice-Chair: Dr. Fabricia Cristina dos Reis	Brazil	2025 – Stepped down as V.C. at the end of the year
4	Dr. Sergio Pasquini	Italy	Member and Liaison Officer
5	Stefanie Krämer	Germany	Member
6	Dr. Riad Baalbaki	USA	Member
7	Heidi Larson	USA	Member
8	Rachael Davies	United Kingdom	Member
9	Adele Scott	New Zealand	Member
10	Karen Sommerville	Australia	Member
11	Edith Daboue	Burkinabè	Member
12	Dr. Razia Sultana	India	Member
13	Sue Alvarez	USA	Member
A. RULES DEVELOPMENT			
A1. Introduction of New Methods			
	Method name	proposed	collaboration
	subject	finalisation	remarks
			update
			progress
1	NA		
A2. Introduction of New Species			
	Species and test	proposed	collaboration
		finalisation	remarks
			update
			progress
1	N/A		
2			
A3. Introduction of Rules Changes			
	Subject	proposed	collaboration
		finalisation	remarks
			update
			progress
1	N/A		

B. PUBLICATIONS			
<u>B1. Publications to accompany the Rules</u>			
			remarks
Publication title	proposed finalisation	collaboration	update progress
1			
<u>B3. Scientific information publications</u>			
			remarks
Publication title	proposed finalisation	collaboration	update progress
C. WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS			
<u>C1. Training and education workshops</u>			
			remarks
workshop subject	proposed finalisation	collaboration	update progress
location			
None			
D. PROFICIENCY TESTS			
Proficiency test subject	proposed finalisation	collaboration	update progress
location			
1 N/A			
E. QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE			
subject of question	Month		from country
1 Many – not documented			

Other activities: Working on developing a website. Ran out of funds. We were able to go public with the website still needing work, and at the end of 2025, we have 4,200 seed images in the gallery and over 90 protocols. We added the Moisture chapter in the methodology section. There are over 5,300 species listed in the website's species list. Many more seed images and protocols will be posted on the website in 2026.